FBIS DAILY REPORT

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ARAB LEAGUE SENDS MESSAGES TO REJECTION FRONT STATES

NC301505Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 30 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Sudanese Vice President Rashid at-Tahir has said that he discussed with President Anwar as-Sadat the Arab situation in light of the Arab League Council meetings and the council's decisions.

He said that next week Sudanese President Ja'afar Numayri will begin his contacts for consolidating Arab solidarity and for preparing for the convening of an Arab summit conference.

Rashid at-Tahir, in his capacity as chairman of the current session of the Arab League Council, today sent messages to the five rejection front states expressing, on behalf of the council members, disappointment over the fact that they did not attend or participate in the activity of the league and its organizations in affirmation of the joint Arab action.

Rashid at-Tahir today held several contacts during which views were exchanged on the implementation of the Arab League Council decisions.

ISRAELI SHELLING OF JOINT FORCES IN LEBANON REPORTED

JN301515Y Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Mar 78 JN

[Excerpt] Sources of the Palestinian revolution have affirmed that the forces of the Zionist enemy are continuing their savage shelling of the positions of the joint forces and the populated areas in southern Lebanon. The sources added that the joint forces will reply and return fire in a more concentrated manner if the enemy continues with his provocations against the joint forces.

Sources of the joint forces said that the rightist forces have taken advantage of the Zionist occupation of southern Lebanon to reinforce their positions there and take control of other positions. The sources added that the rightist forces have extended their control over new areas to the south of the Litani River. News reports say that Sa'd Haddad, commander of the rightist forces, has begun taking revenge on the inhabitants of the southern villages which refused to cooperate with the enemy forces.

HABASH, 'ARAFAT SPEAK AT DAY OF LAND RALLY

JN310859Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0810 GMT 31 Mar 78 JN

[Excerpt] Beirut, 31 March--Dr George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, has stressed that the devotion to the land on the Day of the Land should be marked by preserving the Palestinian and Lebanese gun and the Palestinian revolution which aim at liberating the land.

In a speech during a rally held here last night on the occasion marking the second anniversary of the Day of the Land, Dr Habash said: Our pride over the results of the battle in southern Lebanon should not blind us to the new dangers and complications the revolution will experience following the Israeli occupation and as a result of the battles with the prosettlement regimes which are impudently demanding us to lay down our arms.

Speaking about the UN resolution [presumably the latest UN resolution on southern Lebanon] and international law, Habash said: We must know how to confront this. It is with legality for every people to defend their rights. Dr Habash warned that the enemy is preparing for a new military onslaught in an attempt to rob the revolution of its military victory.

Dr Habash stressed the importance of genuine national unity among the resistance factions. He said it is disgraceful to attempt to direct a military battle from eight operation rooms. Habash said that current events can be considered a touchstone for the front of steadfastness. He called for differentiating between treason and failure.

Also speaking at the rally, Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, said that the plot is continuing in Lebanon and throughout the Arab homeland to bring the area into the Zionist and imperialist sphere of influence. 'Arafat said that the 8-day war waged by the joint forces has proved the superiority of the Arab fighter and ended the myth about the invincible enemy.

Muhsin Ibrahim, secretary general of the Central Political Council, also spoke and said that the Lebanese Nationalist Movement has made its decision to continue the fighting against the occupation.

ARAB LIBERATION FRONT ISSUES STATEMENT ON DAY OF LAND

JN310928Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 31 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 31 March--The Arab Liberation Front [ALF] has asserted that the Zionist presence on our land in Palestine is only temporary. The ALF confirmed that imperialism and Zionism, as well as their tools in the area, will not succeed in uprooting the Arab revolution in Palestine or in terminating its victorious march.

In a statement released last night on the occasion of the second anniversary of our masses' upheaval in the occupied Arab territories on 30 March 1976, the front praised the struggle of our steadfast people, who have proved that the land is theirs and that the presence of the Zionist forces of usurpation and expansion is only a transient cloud in the sky of our Arab homeland.

The statement points out that the anniversary of the Day of the Land is being observed at the time when the Zionist enemy is attempting to achieve his aggressive and expansionist objectives in southern Lebanon where the Palestinian and Lebanese struggle is displayed in a magnificent manner in defense of the Arab soil and the nation's ambitions and fate. This anniversary is also being observed at the time when the outbidders and hirelings are entrenching their suspicious affiliation with the counterrevolution forces and their imperialist and Zionist allies.

The statement adds that our Palestinian masses stress to all outbidders and plotters that they are stronger than the plots and tools of oppression and terrorism used against our fighters and armed revolution. The statement says that the victory scored by our fighters in southern Lebanon can never be isolated from the steadfastness and sacrifices of our people inside the occupied homeland.

The statement asserts that the fighting revolution, both inside and outside the occupied homeland, will lie in wait for all those who may let themselves be seduced and persuaded to bargain with the historic rights of our people and the objectives and aspirations of our glorious nation.

In conclusion, the AFL pledged to the masses of our people and nation to proceed along the road of armed struggle until all the soil of our Palestinian land is liberated.

FATAH OFFICIAL SPEAKS AT DAMASCUS CONFERENCE

JN3107l9Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 31 Mar 78 JN

[Excerpts] The international conference in support of the peasants and people of Palestine continued its meetings in Damascus last evening. The conference elected brother Nuh Abu al-Hayjah as its president and several speeches by participating delegation heads were delivered.

Brother Muhammad Ratib Ghunaym, Fatah Central Committee member, delivered a speech on behalf of the PLO at the opening session of the international conference in support of the Palestinian people. He spoke about the struggle of the Palestinian Arab people inside the occupied Arab territories and their opposition to the Zionist occupation forces. He reaffirmed the determination of the Palestinian masses to continue the struggle until every inch of occupied Arab territory is liberated and until the Palestinian people regain their national rights, including their right to self-determination and to establish their own state in their homeland. Brother Ghunaym pointed to the heroism and sacrifice of the Palestinian revolution forces during the Israeli invasion against southern Lebanon. He praised the stand adopted by Syria under Comrade Struggler Hafiz al-Asad toward the Palestinian revolution and Al-Asad's continued support of that revolution. He also spoke about As-Sadat's capitulatory visit to occupied Jerusalem and stressed that the front of steadfastness, the backbone of which is formed by Syria and the Palestinian resistance, will always remain the bastion of steadfastness in the face of conspiracies and plots aimed at liquidating the Palestinian cause.

Concluding his speech, brother Ghunaym called on the Arab nation and the nationalist and progressive forces to support the struggle of the Palestinian people on all levels so that the Arab nation's objectives of liberation and victory can be achieved.

'ARAFAT INTERVIEWED ON DEVELOPMENTS IN LEBANON

For a Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA undated interview in Beirut with Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, on Israel's invasion of Lebanon, see the Middle East & North Africa section of the 30 March Soviet Union DAILY REPORT.

ARAB HEALTH MINISTERS BEGIN MEETING IN BAGHDAD

JN2317OlY Baghdad INA in Arabic 1635 GMT 23 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 23 March--The Arab Health Ministers Executive Bureau began an emergency meeting here this evening at the invitation of the Iraqi Government. The discussion in the meeting will revolve around urgent Arab health assistance to the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement.

The meeting is attended by Dr Ibrahim Riyad Husayn, Iraqi minister of health; Dr 'Abd ar-Rahman 'Abdallah, Kuwaiti public health minister and president of the Executive Bureau; Dr 'Ali Muhammad Fakhru, Bahraini health minister; Dr Fawzi as-Sayyid, Egyptian assistant health minister; and Dr Zaki Ahmad Hamdi, chief of the Arab League Health Department.

The Algerian health minister will join the meeting later this evening. The Lebanese Ambassador in Baghdad attended, representing Lebanon.

AS-SADAT MEETS WITH ISRAELI DEFENSE MINISTER

NC311113Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1050 GMT 31 Mar 78 NC

[Text] At 0930 today President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat met with Israeli Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman. The meeting was attended by Vice President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Gen Muhammad 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi, deputy prime minister and minister of war and war production. The meeting lasted for 1 hour, after which the spokesman for the president's office stated that the purpose of the meeting was to complete the discussions which took place yesterday between President as-Sadat and the Israeli defense minister. After the conclusion of his meeting with President as-Sadat, Mr 'Ezer Weizman left Cairo.

Jerusalem Reports 30 March Meeting

TA301324Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 30 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Defense Minister Weizman has conferred with Egyptian President as-Sadat in Cairo. Cairo Radio reports that the meeting lasted 2 hours. Participating in the meeting were Vice President Mubarak and Egyptian War Minister al-Jamasi. An Egyptian spokesman said no progress had been made in the meeting and that it had not been decided to renew the deliberations of the joint Military and Political committees. These deliberations will not be renewed, the spokesman remarked, as long as there is no basis for it.

The situation in southern Lebanon was also discussed and Weizman promised that the IDF would leave the region after the UN force completed its deployment. The BBC correspondent in Cairo reported that Weizman arrived at Cairo Airport on a plane which carried no identification marks and that he was immediately flown by an Egyptian Air Force helicopter to As-Sadat's palace.

Letter to Carter on Talks

NC302023Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 30 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpt] An official spokesman for the president's office has stated that President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat will send a letter tomorrow to U.S. President Jimmy Carter to inform the U.S. President of the proceedings of President as-Sadat's meeting with Israeli Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman.

AL-AHRAM Comments on Talks

NC310951Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0610 GMT 31 Mar 78 NC

[From the press review]

[Text] This morning the Cairo newspapers comment on the Israeli media's treatment of yesterday's visit to Cairo by Israeli Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman. The papers say that whatever the political background may be for this visit, Cairo's firm and principled stand on the basic elements of the peace issue is clear. It affirms that Israeli withdrawal from all territories and the recognition of the Palestinian peoples' rights are the only remaining channels for the establishment of peace in the Middle East.

In addition, the Cairo papers note the intransigent Israeli attitude expressed by Menahem Begin in his speech to the Knesset the day before yesterday. The papers warn against these Israeli moves, which are aimed at gaining time. The papers add that they will only bring the dead end closer and that this is Israel's concept of peace in the Middle East.

Commenting on this subject under the headline "What Does Weizman Want?" AL-AHRAM points out that whatever the nature of ideas conveyed by Weizman to Cairo may be, it is clear that they have been calculated to extricate Israel from the dilemma resulting from the Carter-Begin talks in Washington. The paper adds that the main aim of these ideas is to take the initiative away from the U.S. side and to exclude it from the arena in order to revive the bilateral contacts between Egypt and Israel. The Americans may come into the picture again later if there is a need. What is important, however, is for Begin to relieve himself of what appears to be a crisis in U.S.-Israeli relations. The paper says that some might question the wisdom of Egypt's allowing Weizman to visit Cairo at a time when Israel, by its behavior, the statements made by its prime minister and its actions in southern Lebanon, seems bent on evading the peace efforts and their prerequisites. However, it is clear that Egypt sees no harm in Weizman's visit and in listening to what he has to say, in full confidence that any change--if there is any--must come from Israel. Egypt has also made its basic stands on the peace elements in the Middle East clear in a way which leaves no room for doubt or ambiguity. Israel knows full well what Egypt can accept as a basis for negotiations and what it cannot. Egypt has restated its positions through the latest discussions of the National Security Council and has explained that Israel's withdrawal from all fronts and the rights of the Palestinian people are the only remaining channels for the establishment of peace. Egypt will not close the door in the face of peace contacts.

AL-AHRAM concludes: Egypt does not mind listening to Weizman, because it knows what it is doing and reaffirms its desire to maintain the peace efforts and no new devious moves aimed at impeding peace will deceive it.

FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSES AS-SADAT'S INITIATIVE

NC3022377 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 30 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil has announced that President Anwar as-Sadat's peace initiative has begun to bear fruit as is now being shown by the interaction [tafa'ulat] which has now begun to appear between Israeli public opinion and the Israeli Cabinet and parliament. The best example of this is what has happened in Israel. Some 300 officers and men have presented the prime minister with a memorandum in which they said: Peace is better than the occupation of territory. These officers have kept up their activity, collecting several signatures from officers and men in addition to organizing a demonstration with thousands of people participating. This indicates that there is support for President as-Sadat's call for a comprehensive and just peace based on the recovery of the occupied Arab territories and the Palestinian people's exercising their self-determination.

This call has met with the understanding of public opinion in Israel and throughout the world, particularly in the United States. Furthermore, changes have begun to take place in the stances of the U.S. administration and within the Zionist pressure groups in the United States.

There is now an understanding of the Egyptian and Arab stands. This can be seen in the announcement by the U.S. administration that Security Council Resolution 242 applies to all fronts and territories, that it is imperative to resolve the Palestinian question in all respects and on the basis of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights and their participation in determining their own fate and that the settlements are illegal and constitute an obstacle to peace.

Asked about the Egyptian moves in the upcoming phase, the foreign minister said: What has happened in Washington in the wake of the Israeli prime minister's talks with the officials there motivates us to concert our efforts. There are fields for these moves. The nonalined states conference will be held, an African summit conference will be held in Khartoum and an Islamic conference will be convened in Dakar.

Concerning Egypt's relationship with the European states, the foreign minister said: There are traditional relations binding Egypt and the states of West Europe together. These states have begun to soundly understand the Arab cause. They have clearly voiced their opinion, whether concerning the need for Israel's withdrawal from the Arab territories or concerning the Palestinian question.

Munammad Ibrahim Kamil concluded the interview he has granted to the "Cup of Tea" program, which will be broadcast this Saturday evening, by answering a question about Egyptian-Soviet relations. He said: Egypt devotes its attention to maintaining good relations with all the states, particularly with the two superpowers. However, as a result of specific stands taken by the Soviet Union--stands President as-Sadat has explained on several occasions, whether concerning armament or indebtedness--tension has strained this relationship. Furthermore, following the initiative, the Soviet Union has adopted the stand of describing the initiative as a unilateral and capitulatory solution, despite the fact that the Soviet Union knows that this is not true and that it has now become clear that the initiative is not aimed at a unilateral solution--and the Soviets have admitted this fact. The Soviets have the opportunity to change their stance and revise their calculations. Egypt is interested in having good relations with the Soviet Union. This requires the application of the principle of reciprocal respect and noninterference in domestic affairs.

AL-AKHBAR REAFFIRMS CONFIDENCE IN PEACE INITIATIVE

LD292122Y Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 27 Mar 78 p 1 LD

[Editorial: "The Door to Peace Is Open"]

[Text] The foreign minister stated that the National Security Council decided at its meeting under President Anwar as-Sadat that the door to the peace process should remain open. Egypt, he said, has decided to continue its efforts to reach a just and comprehensive solution for the Middle East crisis provided that the solution is based on Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, the recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the insuring of mutual security for all the countries of the area.

There are people who ask: What is the use of keeping the door to peace open following Menahem Begin's defiant stand before U.S. officials and after prospects of returning to peaceful negotiations have become so dim, according to the U.S. secretary of state.

Those who ask such a question are those who look upon the cause of peace from an extremely narrow angle. They think everything in this case depends on what Menahem Begin wants and on the attitude he adopts toward it. Because of such a narrow outlook they imagine that the peace initiative has faultered and come to an end and is of no avail.

Indeed the peace initiatives is much stronger than all this, and the fact is that as a result of his intransigence and defiance, Menahem Begin has not harmed the peace initiative but rather harmed and destroyed himself. This is evident in the fact that he returned from Washington only to find his seat in the Israeli Cabinet violently shaken under him and the whole world denouncing him and his illusions and supporting the peace initiative and the peaceful solution of the Middle East problem.

However, if we look back at the peace initiative since President Anwar as-Sadat declared it we find that it has taken long and firm strides on the path of peace and that it is gaining strength daily, a matter that calls for reassurance and optimism.

If we survey what the initiative has achieved for the Arab position in the way of support and backing, we would see major facts that cannot be ignored, the most significant of which are:

First, that the peace initiative has become an international issue which the world looks upon as involving its security and interests and, therefore, is keen to achieve it by all means possible.

Second, that the initiative has politically isolated Israel. Evidence of this isolation is the fact that the Israeli prime minister did not find a single voice in the world to sympathize with or accept his intransigent stand. Even those who have traditionally sympathized with Israel are now turning their backs on it and denouncing Menahem Begin's stand.

Third, the disputes and strife within Israel itself. For the first time in its history Israel is experiencing acute differences between its parties, press and people. These differences are becoming more acute daily.

Fourth--and the most important fact--is that the organic cohesion between the United States and Israel has come apart. This cohesion has broken up for the first time, not only on the government level and between officials but also on the popular level. Voices have been raised in the United States denouncing Israel's intransigent stands. Even Jews in the United States have voiced such denunciation. This was expressed by Jewish Senator Abraham Ribicoff, who said that feelings in the Congress and in the U.S. public opinion have become overwhelmingly against Begin. This was what the press agencies have described as the worst crisis in U.S.-Israeli relations.

It would suffice to ask here of what value is Israel without the United States?

These were the steps that the peace initiative achieved. They are major steps and important gains for the Arabs on the international level and on the level of their conflict with Israel. We know that our path is the path of right and justice and that our cause is daily gaining momentum and strength on this path. Therefore, let us leave the door to peace open and let Israel continue its search for it. It might find the road to it or it might get lost on it.

BURUNDI FOREIGN MINISTER MUGANGA LEAVES CAIRO

NC311133Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1055 GMT 31 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 31 March--Burundi Foreign Minister Albert Muganga left Cairo early today following a private visit of a few days to Egypt. In a statement before his departure, the Burundi foreign minister denounced the Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon, saying that this aggression has resulted in the occupation of new territories and has demonstrated Israel's policy of expansion and of putting obstacles in the path of peace in the Middle East.

EGYPT, UNITED STATES SIGN TWO LOAN AGREEMENTS

NC292005Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 29 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpt] Minister of Economy and Economic Cooperation Dr Hamid as-Sayih and the U.S. ambassador in Cairo, Mr Hermann Eilts, today signed two loan agreements between Egypt and the United States. The two loans total $41 million. The first loan, of $29 million, will be used to finance projects to replace and renovate electric power grids in Cairo, Alexandria, Shibin al-Kawm and Bani Suwayf. The second loan, of $12 million, will be used to finance studies of drinking water, sanitary sewage and power generator networks and the supplying of new villages with electric power in addition to studies on ways to improve public health.

The two loans will be settled over 40 years, including a 10-year grace period at an interest rate of 2 percent and at a 3-percent interest rate during the remaining period.

EGYPTIAN OIL COMPANIES MERGE TO FORM NEW COMPANY

NC301830Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Engineer 'Izz ad-Din Hilal, minister of industry, petroleum and mining, this morning signed an agreement on the exploitation of the Al-Bala'im oil. Our reporter Mustafa 'Izz gives the following details of this agreement: [begin recording]

The Al-Bala'im Oil Company is carrying out operations on behalf of the General Petroleum Authority and the International Oil Company. This company has been formed through merging the contracts of the Eastern Oil Company and the Delta Oil Company and through a shift from the partnership system to the production-sharing system. The production will be shared on the basis of 87 percent for the General Petroleum Authority and 13 percent for the International Oil Company, on the understanding that the International Oil Company will meet all the costs and expenditures for the prospecting and drilling operations.

The agreement also stipulates that new company will employ all the workers of the Eastern Oil Company and the Delta Oil Company without jeopardizing any of their rights or their established privileges. The agreement also stipulates that the gas available in all the fields, including the Abu Madi gas, will become the authority's exclusive property without the payment of anything in return. One of the advantages of the agreement is an increase in the state's share in accordance with the production-sharing system, in contrast to what the state had been obtaining under the partnership system. The agreement was signed in the presence of Engineer Ramzi al-Laythi, chairman of the General Petroleum Authority, and Engineer Tawfiq Shawqi, director of the Eastern Oil Company.

KING HUSAYN RETURNS FROM TEHERAN VISIT

JN2815482 Amman JNA in Arabic 1545 GMT 28 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 28 March--His Majesty King Husayn has returned to Amman following a private 6-day visit to Iran during which he met with His Imperial Majesty Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, shah of Iran. Princess Basmah, Princes 'Abdallah and Faysal, and the chief chamberlain returned with his majesty. His majesty was received by the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, ministers and senior state officials.

His majesty had stopped en route in Aqaba where he was received by Crown Prince Hasan and Princess Tharwat.

HUSAYN RECEIVES DELEGATION OF U.S. BUSINESSMEN

JN3019512 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Mar 78 JN

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn met at the Royal Hashemite Court this afternoon with the members of the delegation of U.S. businessmen currently visiting the region under the sponsorship of the U.S. magazine TIME. At the beginning of the meeting, his majesty welcomed the delegation's members and explained to them aspects of the situation in the region. His majesty stressed Jordan's firm stand on the peace issue in the area and said: We seek to achieve just and lasting peace in the region, based on total Israeli withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied in June 1967 and the security of the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian Arab people, including their right to self-determination in complete freedom.

Makes Statement

JN3022052 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 30 Mar 78 JN

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn said that we are now at a major crossroad and that the Israeli Government's stand has taken the world to this crossroad. He said that the world faces one of two options: either to succeed in finding a just and durable peace, or to allow the possibility of a course toward peace to dissipate; that is, the course of Resolution No 242, the Geneva conference and the comprehensive peace settlement.

His majesty added: We must work for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution No 242 without remaining prisoners of the interpretations of the resolution. The resolution is clear to all and it includes the principles for the achievement of peace. We now need more than a declaration of principles. The situation requires the implementation of principles and commitment to work to establish comprehensive peace in the area. His majesty continued: The explanations and correspondence which accompanied the issuance of Resolution 242, and which we were a party to, were very clear. The clarity of commitment to withdrawal was very clear. As-Sadat's initiative has disclosed that Israel does not want peace but land. However, Israel is facing the choice between the land and peace and cannot have both.

His Majesty King Husayn explained that no Arab leader refuses peace in return for the end of the occupation and the guaranteeing of the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people. However, the Israeli prime minister says that Resolution 242 does not apply to the West Bank and Gaza and he officially refuses the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination. Therefore, he is closing the door to the peaceful solution.

His majesty said: We often heard from several U.S. representatives that when Israel is strong, it will be moderate. This belief has proven to be wrong. Israel has used the force it was supplied with to act and commit aggression on the lands of adjoining Arab states.

Answering a question, his majesty affirmed that Jordan earnestly seeks to convene an Arab summit conference to discuss the situation in the area in all its aspects and to work for improving relations among the Arab states as well as to draw up a plan to build intrinsic Arab power. His Majesty King Husayn said: If the Arab stand is not unified, Israel will consolidate its occupation of Arab lands and will expand the area of its occupation day after day. His majesty added: The building of Arab strength is what will restore Israel to its normal size. It seems that there will be no solution opening the door to just peace unless Israel goes back to its normal size.

His Majesty King Husayn pointed out that Jordan is drawing up a proposed working program to be a base for the Arab summit conference with the aim of unifying Arab action to mobilize Arab resources to the maximum. His majesty said: The convening of the Arab summit conference is a very important thing if the Arabs want to protect their unity, national identity and future.

Answering a question on the U.S. stand and what the United States should do, His Majesty King Husayn said that President Carter fully understands the situation in the area and knows that we place all confidence in him and his resolve. His Majesty King Husayn added: Israel's mutiny against all laws, norms and considerations will subject the interests of all sides to danger and this requires the United States to prompt Israel to act within reasonable bounds, because the United States is a major side whose interests and international commitments would be affected by Israel's conduct.

His Majesty King Husayn affirmed Jordan's welcome of any free decision made by the Palestinian people on their future after the elimination of occupation. He also affirmed his full conviction that the sweeping majority of the Palestinian people want an honorable solution and the guaranteeing of their rights wihin a peaceful, just framework. The meeting was attended by the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, the minister of royal court and the chief chamberlain.

At the beginning of its tour last Saturday, the delegation met with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, who gave an explanation on the Jordanian development plans and the economic projects currently under implementation to support the national economy and to enable the country to reach the phase of self-sufficiency. His royal highness also acquainted the delegation with the latest developments of the Middle East situation and the obstacles placed by Israel in the way of the efforts being made to establish peace in the area, particularly Israel's continued establishment of settlements in the occupied Arab areas and the economic, social and political effect of these settlements on the citizens in the occupied Arab areas.

PREMIER BADRAN COMMENTS ON ARAB LEAGUE MEETINGS

JN301552Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1520 GMT 30 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 30 March--Commenting on the decision adopted by the Arab League Council to the effect that an Arab solidarity committee should be formed at the highest level to resolve Arab differences and prepare the appropriate atmosphere for the convening of an Arab summit conference, Prime Minister Mudar Badran said: This decision has come in response to His Majesty King Husayn's call for convening an Arab summit conference as soon as possible in order to face the challenges and dangers to which the Arab nation is exposed and to assume to common responsibility.

The prime minister further said: The Jordanian Government is preparing a working program for the proposed Arab summit conference, including a strategy for unified Arab action in the face of the developments of the situation in the Middle East region.

The prime minister had earlier met with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hasan Ibrahim, who submitted a detailed report on the results of the Arab League Council's meeting and the consultations he held with the Arab foreign ministers who attended the meetings of the council, which dealt with consolidating Arab solidarity and convening an Arab summit conference.

NEW IRAQI AMBASSADOR ARRIVES, MAKES STATEMENT

JN270828Y Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 27 Mar 78 p 14 JN

[Text] Amman--Madlul Naji al-Mihnah, the new Iraqi ambassador accredited to the Royal Hashemite Court, arrived in Amman yesterday evening.

In a statement to a JNA correspondent, the ambassador expressed his pride in the new mission entrusted to him as Iraq's ambassador to Jordan. He said that he is confident that His Majesty King Husayn and the Jordanian Government will render all means of cooperation to bring about the success of his mission in Jordan. The ambassador added that he will work to consolidate and stimulate the fraternal ties between Iraq and Jordan in the interest of the two fraternal peoples.

He was received at the airport by a number of the members of the diplomatic corps in Amman and a representative of the Protocol Department at the Foreign Ministry.

AMMAN RADIO ON WEIZMAN'S TALKS IN CAIRO

JN301948Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 30 Mar 78 JN

[Unattributed commentary: "What Is Left for the New Egyptian-Israeli Dialog After Menahem Begin's Recent Statement?"]

[Text] After Menahem Begin's declaration of intentions at the Israeli Knesset, after his stressed rejection of all the principles on which the Arabs base their peace moves and after his rejection of the basic elements on which President Anwar as-Sadat based his initiative--after all these stands, we do not know what Israel has left for the Israeli defense minister to discuss with the Egyptian Government.

Menahem Begin held negotiations with As-Sadat in Ismailia concerning Egyptian sovereignty over vital parts of Sinai. Begin requested special rights for the Israeli people and emigrants to build villages and towns in northern Sinai.

In Washington as well as in the Knesset, Begin said Israel had gained the legal right to stay on Arab land because Israel had waged a defensive war; that is, in defense of its territories. But Israel moved its army to the territory of neighboring states as a tangible proof of its war of aggression and of going beyond the aim of security of the aims of expansion and colonization and exploitation of territories, at the expense of the rightful owners of such territories.

After all of this, on what basis could an objective Israeli-Egyptian dialog take place, in light of Begin's recent statement? What is really required, therefore, is that the Arabs unanimously grant Israel permission to occupy their land and to settle Jews on the land from which Arabs were uprooted. Israel wants Jordan to sign a peace agreement without restoring to it an inch of the territory Israel occupied in 1967 and without permitting Jordan to demand the restoration of such territory. Israel wants Egypt to sign a peace agreement giving Israel everything it wants in return for an Israeli undertaking to colonize a portion of Egyptian territory and not all of the occupied Egyptian territory. Israel wants the Palestinians to accept being erased from the Middle East map as human beings, people and a country, in return for the Israeli army's protection of their right to clean and administer their towns as a community living on Israeli land.

What did the Zionist logic leave for the resumption of the Arab-Israeli dialog? What will the Zionist defense minister offer now that Begin has made lengthy clarifications about what Israel accepts and what it does not accept? Everything is negotiable except the land Israel won from the Arabs through aggression. Egypt, which carried out its initiative to bloc Israel's maneuvers on minor and secondary issues, now realizes that Begin's government wants to push Egypt again inside the circle of minor solutions and limited territorial gains. Egypt realizes that to enter into another Egyptian-Israeli dialog is useless, now that the world has failed to make Begin's government budge from its extremist policies against peace and also this would give Israel an excuse to try to justify its stands and to make the world--which rejects Israel's course and political practices--believe that Israel is still adhering to the peace process and giving it one chance after another.

What is required at this stage is that As-Sadat should face the nation with the same courage with which he faced the world when he visited Israel and spoke at the Israeli Knesset. What is required is that As-Sadat should submit an account of the results of peace talks, the Egyptian initiative, and subsequent bilateral and international efforts. What is required is to tear away the new mask behind which Israel is trying to take advantage of Egypt's desire for peace.

What is required at this stage is that Egypt should stress its declared principles by rejecting the new maneuver, as long as the Begin government continues to announce and cling to its present policy in such a tragic manner. If the Arabs use reason, wisdom and careful thinking in the current situation, they will find in Israel's clear stands justification for restoring their solidarity and their relations with a view to mobilizing the Arab stand in accordance with a unified plan of action, binding for all the members of the cause from the ocean to the gulf.

The alternative to what Begin offered the Arabs must not be fumbling for weak and helpless policies but building up Arab strength. The first step along this road should be Egypt's return to its vanguard role in confronting aggression and invasion.

This should be followed by the nation's leaders' agreement to a plan of action which will define the aims and the new means of action to restore the nation's standing and the enemies to proper size, in the bitter struggle between our nation and its enemies. The struggle is for Arab land and rights, which are the target of aggression and invasion.

PAPERS COMMENT ON BEGIN'S REPORT TO KNESSET

JN3012300Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 30 Mar 78 JN

[Press review]

[Excerpts] In their editorials published this morning, the newspapers deal with Begin's report to the Knesset yesterday on what has been described as his proposal for establishing a just peace in the Middle East.

Under the headline "Begin Assassinated the Egyptian Initiative Before the Knesset," the newspaper AD-DUSTUR says: With his report to the Knesset yesterday, Begin fired the fatal bullet at President as-Sadat's initiative when he declared that the formula suitable as a basis for peace is one that does not oblige Israel to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories and to approve the establishment of a Palestinian state. What is more dangerous is that Begin called on Egypt to resume the dialog on that basis; that is, to relinquish the principles which President as-Sadat presented to the Knesset and which he has pledged to adhere to before the Arab nation. These principles include the need for Israel's withdrawal from all the Arab territories occupied in 1967 and for Israel's recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

Thus Begin has ended President as-Sadat's initiative in public and in practice, and is now inviting As-Sadat to begin a new dialog which has no relation at all with the Egyptian acceptance in advance of the Israeli basis for peace. The acceptance of such a basis would mean Israel is no longer obliged to withdraw from all the occupied Arab territories and would exempt Israel from the obligation to recognize the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. This is the new element brought to light by Begin in his report to the Knesset.

The paper says: It is now clear that what is being offered consists of Begin's initiative of capitulation and concession, and not President as-Sadat's peace initiative, killed by Begin himself yesterday. It seems that Israel's prime minister has chosen to kill President as-Sadat's initiative at the same place it was announced, that is, the Knesset. A very dangerous situation would result if Israel succeeds in dragging Egypt into a dialog under these conditions, particularly since Begin's proposals to the Knesset have been received with violent criticism by the opposition and by parliamentarians belonging to the DMC, which is participating in the present Israeli Cabinet. It is inconceivable that Egypt would ever accept such a dialog based on Begin's ideas--ideas that are considered by a large segment of the Israelis themselves as illogical and narrow-minded.

We are, however, satisfied that the Egyptian reaction to Begin's report and his ill-fated initiative was sharp. This was contained in a commentary by Cairo radio which described the report as having brought nothing new and as a continuation of the intransigent policy adopted by the Israeli prime minister. However, Cairo must tell the world frankly that President as-Sadat's initiative has been assassinated and ended at Begin's hands.

By doing so President as-Sadat will lose nothing, On the contrary, such frankness will lead to a strong international reaction in favor of our cause, particularly after the failure of the Carter-Begin talks. Such frankness will also create a reaction in the Israeli arena itself, thus providing the opportunity for the advent of a new leadership more eager to avoid the huge mistakes committed by Begin. What is more important is that if Egypt declares the end of the initiative, this will be an automatic announcement of the reunification of Arab ranks. However, such a declaration by Egypt must not be considered as a condition imposed on Egypt. This announcement will be a courageous step capable of removing all Arab differences and will attract all Arab countries to the forthcoming summit conference where the necessary new strategy can be laid down to face the the next fateful stage through which our nation is passing.

The newspaper AL-AKHBAR, commenting on the same subject, writes under the headline "Dialog of Terrorists": Yesterday Israel's prime minister stood before the Knesset to present a report on his discussions in Washington and to answer questions from Israeli parliamentarians. The session witnessed a violent debate which, however, was not over the basic stands of the Begin government, which insists on its own interpretation of Resolution 242 and which also insists--like its opponents--on rejecting the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination. The violent debates centered on the opposition's accusations addressed to Begin's government concerning defaming Israel's image in the international scene.

The Israeli opposition did not protest, even with a single word, the continued occupation of Arab territories because the opposition itself was occupying these territories since the June 1967 aggression. More than that, the opposition undertook the 1967 aggression when it was in power and continued to insist on it during all the years it remained in power. The Israeli opposition also did not protest the Israeli attack against southern Lebanon and did not blame the Israeli aggression for striking Palestinian and civilian concentrations. The opposition did not address a single word of balme to the Israeli Government for practicing sectarian discrimination in occupied Palestine and for its recent attempts to implement a similar policy in southern Lebanon, at a time when the peoples of the world are proud of their struggle against all kinds of sectarian or racist discrimination.

PAPERS CITE TRADE UNIONS' **DENUNCIATION** OF ISRAEL

JN301623Y [Editorial report JN] Three daily Jordanian newspapers, AR-RA'Y, AD-DUSTUR, and AL-AKHBAR, publish on their last pages on 16 March the statement issued by the Jordanian trade unions denouncing the Israeli aggression on southern Lebanon. The statement denounces "the war of annihilation being unleashed by the Zionist forces against the Palestinian forces with the aim of liquidating the Palestinian issue." It appeals to the Arab nation to reply to this operation, and it urges the Arab masses "to act quickly to prompt their governments to take effective steps to shoulder their pan-Arab duties by serious and effective confrontation of the Israeli aggression." Contrary to the report in the Kuwaiti paper, the Jordanian press accounts of the statement did not refer to "striking at U.S. interests in the area," to "mobilizing the Arab armed forces" or to "placing Arab arms stockpiles at the service of the battle." There was similarly no mention in the Jordanian papers of using Arab oil as a political weapon.

CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES SPEAKER AL-AS'AD LEAVES FOR SYRIA

JN310932Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0930 GMT 31 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 31 March--Kamil al-As'ad, speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, left for Damascus this morning on a short visit. Al-As'ad's visit to the Syrian capital is described as a private one.

FOREIGN MINISTER BUTRUS MEETS WITH AMBASSADOR PARKER

NC301228Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 30 Mar 78 NC

[Text] On the diplomatic level and within the framework of the diplomatic contacts and efforts to implement the UN security resolution and expedite the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanon, Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus met with U.S. Ambassador in Beirut Richard Parker this morning. The meeting lasted 75 minutes. After the meeting the U.S. ambassador said: We discussed the implementation of the UN Security Council's resolution. Asked whether he is still optimistic regarding the withdrawal of the Israeli forces, the U.S. ambassador said: Yes, I am still optimistic. Asked whether he has an idea about the period of withdrawal, the ambassador said: Israel fixed this period at 1 month. I have no other information or details. The withdrawal is a must.

GOVERNMENT REPORTEDLY PLANS TO REDISTRIBUTE PALESTINIANS

JN301729Y Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 30 Mar 78 JN

[Excerpt] Sources close to the Lebanese Government have said that the Lebanese Government has prepared a plan to distribute the Palestinians present in Lebanon among various parts of Lebanon, and the other Palestinians will be distributed among the Arab countries [as heard]. The sources said that the plan has been shrouded with secrecy and will not be revealed before the withdrawal of the enemy forces from southern Lebanon.

LE REVEIL: SYRIA HALTS SUPPLIES FOR JOINT FORCES

JN310935Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0915 GMT 31 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 31 March--The French-language newspaper (LE REVEIL) reports today that Hafiz al-Asad's regime yesterday affirmed its pledge to prevent the arrival of supplies and aid to the joint forces in Lebanon. The paper says that this assertion was made following the visit of Lt Col Sami al-Khatib, commander of the Arab deterrent forces, to Syria yesterday and his meeting with Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Chief of Staff Maj Gen Hikmat ash-Shihabi.

EVACUEES REPORTEDLY RETURNING TO SOUTH

NC310738Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0615 GMT 31 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpts] Yesterday morning, three vehicles carrying about 50 French UN soldiers proceeded to Al-Qasimiyah to check the area. However, in view of the presence of Palestinian fedayeen in the area the French unit had to return to the Tyre barracks. The UN forces which took up positions at two points at the approaches of Al-Bazuriyah and 'Ayn B'al began searching vehicles entering and leaving the Israeli-controlled area. Heavy traffic was observed on the roads leading to the Israeli-controlled areas. Dozens of vehicles carrying household effects were going to 'Ayn B'al, Qana, Haris and Haddathah. Many evacuees are reportedly returning to the south.

Calm prevailed in the eastern sector yesterday. Many evacuees have returned from 'Alayh and Rashayya al-Wadi. The situation appeared normal, particularly in Hasbayya where the citizens received with satisfaction the resolutions adopted at the general Druze meeting in Beirut 2 days ago.

The Swedish contingent is consolidating its positions in Rashayya al-Fukhkhar and patroling the Rashayya al-Fukhkhar-Al-Hebbariyah-Suq al-Khan road. There were no cease-fire violations reported. The Israeli air force was not active yesterday, perhaps because of bad weather.

FRENCH SHIP ARRIVES; NORWEGIAN, ITALIAN FORCES EXPECTED

NC310623Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 31 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpt] A French ship has arrived at Beirut port carrying 9 soldiers and 53 vehicles. Another French ship carrying 93 soldiers and about 40 vehicles is expected to arrive next week. Also, 650 Norwegian soldiers are expected to arrive by air in the next 3 days. It has also been learned that an Italian contingent will arrive in Lebanon on 11 April to join the UN forces.

LARGE PALESTINIAN ARMS STORE DISCOVERED NEAR TYRE

NC291258Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 29 Mar 78 NC

[Text] According to reports received from southern Lebanon this morning, the Israeli forces have discovered what they described as a very large cache of arms and ammunition in a village called (?Rishknaniyah), about 5 km from Qana in the Tyre district. This arms cache was discovered in an underground storage area with a concrete ceiling, covered with dirt for camouflage. The arms consisted of heavy and medium Soviet-made weapons. The underground storage area was discovered when a vehicle with tracks drove over it.

RELATIVE CALM PREVAILS; RED CROSS WORKER KILLED

NC310616Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0515 GMT 31 Mar 78 NC

[Text] A relative calm prevailed for the second day in southern Lebanon except for sporadic firing and some explosions at night. The calm situation has encouraged the evacuees to return to their homes. The Israeli forces have imposed a night curfew in the border villages.

(Louis Gaulis), a delegate of the International Red Cross, was killed when his car overturned the night before last while he was on his way to Tyre. His body was removed to the American University Hospital for an autopsy.

PRESIDENTIAL DECREE ON NEW CABINET UNDER AL-HALABI

JN3016452 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1625 GMT 30 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen, we have just received the following: His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad has issued a decree forming the new cabinet. The following is the text of the decree:

Decree No 339: The president of the republic, in accordance with the previsions of the constitution, decrees the following:

Article 1. The cabinet in the Syrian Arab Republic shall be formed as follows:

Prime Minister	Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi
Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister	'Abd al-Halim Khaddam
Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs	Jamil Shayya
Deputy Prime Minister for Services Affairs	Fahmi al-Yusufi

Minister of:

Defense	Gen Mustafa Talas
Local Administration	Taha al-Khayrat
Education	Zuhayr Mashariqah
Supply and Internal Trade	Muhammad Ghabbash
State for Foreign Affairs	'Abd al-Karim 'Adi
State for Presidential Affairs	Adib Milhim
Euphrates Dam	Engineer Subhi Kahhalah
Higher Education	Shakir al-Fahham
Justice	Adib an-Nahawi
Communications	'Umar as-Siba'i
Agriculture and Agrarian Reform	Engineer Ahmad Qabalan
Awqaf	'Abd as-Sattar as-Sayyid
Economy and Foreign Trade	Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi
Health	Dr Madani Khiyami
State	Zuhayr 'Aod as-Samad
State for Cabinet Affairs	Anwar Hamudah
Industry	Shutaywi Sayfu
Information	Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad
Interior	Brig Gen 'Adnan Dabbagh
Finance	Dr Sadiq al-Ayyubi
Electricity	Dr Ahmad 'Umar Yusuf
Culture	Dr Najah al-'Attar
Oil and Natural Resources	'Isa Darwish
Tourism	Dr Ghassan Shalhub
State	Diya' Malluhi
Housing and Utilities	Muharram Tayyarah
Public Works and Water Resources	Nazim Qaddur
State for Planning Affairs	Dr George Huraniyah
Social Affairs and Labor	Yusuf Ju'aydani
State	Sharif Qush
Transport	Dr Salim Yasin
State	Safwan Qudsi

Article 2. This decree shall be published and those concerned shall be notified.

Damascus on 30 March 1978, president of the republic, Hafiz al-Asad.

His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad has also issued decree No 338. The following is the text of the decree:

The president of the republic, in accordance with the previsions of the constitution, decrees the following:

Article 1. The resignation of the cabinet of Prime Minister Maj Gen 'Abd ar-Rahman Khulayfawi shall be accepted.

Article 2. This decree shall be published and those concerned shall be notified.

Damascus on 30 March 1978, president of the republic, Hafiz al-Asad.

CONFERENCE IN SUPPORT OF PALESTINIANS OPENS IN DAMASCUS

JN3015022 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 30 Mar 78 JN

[Excerpts] Damascus--Under the auspices of Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and president of the republic, the international conference in support of the peasants and people of Palestine was opened at 1000 today. The conference was called for by the preparatory committee of the international conference in support of the Palestinian people. Well over 50 Arab and international organizations are participating in the conference. The conference is being held under the slogan: "Let the efforts of the peasants and agricultural workers in the world unite to topple the imperialist-Zionist alliance." The conference is being held at the building of the General Federation of the Syrian Workers Trade Unions.

Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, deputized for the comrade secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in opening the conference. The conference was attended by several comrade members of the National and Regional commands of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, several ministers, Chairman of the Palestine National Council Khalid al-Fahum, the comrade secretary of the Damascus branch of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, several members of the PLO Executive Committee, members of the Executive Bureau of the General Federation of Peasants in the Syrian Arab Republic, members of the General Federation of Palestinian Peasants and the members of the Arab and foreign diplomatic corps.

At the beginning of the ceremony, brother Mustafa al-'Ayid spoke on behalf of the General Federation of Syrian Peasants. Brother Aman Hamdan, member of the general secretariat of Palestinian peasants, then spoke on behalf of the Palestinian peasants. Brother Diya' al-Hajj 'Ali, secretary general of the Arab Peasants Union, spoke on behalf of the preparatory committee. Brothe Muhammad Ratib Ghunaym, member of the executive committee of the Fatah movement, then spoke on behalf of the PLO.

The concluding speech was made on behalf of the comrade secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. The speech was delivered by Assistant Secretary General of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar.

PALESTINIANS STAGE PROCESSION, SUPPORT AL-ASAD

JN3015302 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 30 Mar 78 JN

[Excerpt] A mammoth popular rally was staged today in the streets of the Al-Yarmuk refugee camp in solidarity with the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied areas on the occasion of the second anniversary of the Al-ard (land) Day.

Several comrade members of the unified Palestinian organization of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the comrade secretary and members of the Palestine command branch of the party, the comrade secretary and members of the Palestinian revolution youth, representatives of the Palestinian resistance and the Palestinian popular organization, the dignitaries of the Al-Yarmuk refugee camp, the Palestinian youth in the Palestinian camp schools and huge crowds from the Palestinian camps participated.

The procession began from 'Bad al-Qadir al-Husayni Mosque and took place on the main streets of the camp. The participants shouted pan-Arab slogans expressing support and solidarity with the Palestinian Arab people who are struggling against Zionism inside the occupied areas. They also shouted in favor of Palestinian-Syrian struggle unity for the sake of liberation and unity. They also hailed the Comrade Struggler Hafiz al-Asad, the leader of the march of our people for liberation, victory, and construction.

At the end of the procession and amid echoing slogans, poet Yusuf al-Khatib delivered a poem in the name of the Palestinian masses expressing the determination of the Palestinian Arab people to continue their struggle until liberation and return. He also praised the revolutionary cohesion between the Syrian Arab Republic and the Palestinian revolution and affirmed the struggle unity between them. Concluding his poem, he hailed Comrade Struggler Hafiz al-Asad, the president of the republic, who is leading the march of the Arab nation through the front of steadfastness to foil the plots and to confront the imperialist and Zionist designs until liberation and victory are achieved.

At the end of the procession, the crowds congregating at the Al-Yarmuk camp sent to Comrade Struggler Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and president of the republic, the following cable of greetings:

Comrade secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and president of the republic, sponsor of the international conference for solidarity with the Palestinian peasants and people; the masses of the Palestinian Arab people congregating at the Al-Yarmuk camp today hail the struggle of our peasants on their heroic day--the day of Al-Ard. They hail our steadfast people in the occupied homeland and reaffirm their upholding of the land and determination to liberate their Palestinian soil. The imperialist-Zionist plots which are continuing against the cause of our people, despite the variety of their forms and methods, will not stop the revolutionary tide of our struggling masses and will not obstruct their struggle march. On the contrary, our masses will grow more determined to cling to their land and to oppose all those who are trading on the cause of our people and those who are hesitating to take stands.

Our peasants have struggled against all attempts throughout many years, particularly since the 1948 catastrophe and before that. They struggled against the attempts to Judaize the occupied areas. Bloody clashes took place between our strugglers on the one hand and the forces of invasion and occupation. In these clashes, our people have proved their ability to continue struggling against Zionism. Our people are still determined to wrest their rights through all means. The plots being concocted against our people are big in size and objectives. This imperialist-Zionist-As-Sadat plot is aimed at uprooting the Palestinian people. However, our people, together with all their patriotic forces and the states of steadfastness and confrontation, will wrest the initiative from the conspiratorial As-Sadat regime and turn the battle in the interest of our Arab masses and their progressive forces.

The Palestinian masses reaffirm their eagerness to preserve the Syrian-Palestinian struggle unity and through this unity to preserve the struggle cohesion between the Palestinian revolution and the revolution in the Syrian Arab Republic.

PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY ELECTS MAHMUD HADID NEW SPEAKER

JN302012Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 30 Mar 78 JN

[Excerpts] Damascus--The People's Assembly held a session at 1800 hours today under Deputy Speaker Muhammad 'Adil Jamus. The session was attended by Prime Minister Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi and a number of ministers.

The deputy speaker said Article 10 of the assembly's bylaws provides that when the post of an assembly office becomes vacant a successor should be elected. As the speaker's post has become vacant as a result of the formation of the new cabinet under Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi, the nomination and election of a successor to this post should be made.

Mahmud Hadid nominated himself to the post of speaker. Votes were cast and Hadid won 137 votes our of 144, which was the number of members present during the session. Muhammad 'Adil Jamus then invited the new speaker to chair the session.

The assembly secretary then summed up the proceedings of the final session of the second ordinary session. Speaker Mahmud Hadid then adjourned the session to 1900 hours on Monday 15 May when the third ordinary session will open.

AL-ASAD RECEIVES LETTER FROM U.S. PRESIDENT

JN302133Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 30 Mar 78 JN

[Text] At 1400 today President Hafiz al-Asad received Mr Richard Murphy, U.S. Ambassador in Damascus. President al-Asad received from him a letter from U.S. President Jimmy Carter.

KHADDAM RECEIVES ARAB DETERRENT FORCES COMMANDER

JN301123Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 30 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received in his office this morning Lt Col Sami al-Khatib, commander of the Arab deterrent forces in Lebanon.

Lt Col Sami al-Khatib arrived in Damascus from Beirut this morning.

KHADDAM RECEIVES AUSTRIAN YOUTH DELEGATION

JN302015Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 30 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam today received the delegation of the Austrian Socialist Youth Union headed by chairman of the National Council of the Austrian Socialist Youth (Ulbricht Contini). The meeting was attended by Chairman of the Revolution Youth Union Faysal Summaq and a number of members of the union command.

The deputy prime minister andforeign minister gave a detailed explanation of the circumstances through which the Arab area is passing and the aims of the Israeli aggression in southern Lebanon. He also explained the Syrian policy, which is aimed at establishing a just peace in the Arab area on the basis of the recovery of the occupied Arab territories and the Palestinian Arab people's rights.

ATH-THAWRAH COMMENTS ON WEIZMAN VISIT TO CAIRO

JN3109427 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 31 Mar 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper ATH-THAWRAH deals in its editorial with the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations and says: Weizman's present visit to Cairo represents in the Egyptian capitulation dictionary a new and advanced stage on the road of concluding a separate deal with Israel. Terrorist Begin pointed to such a deal before the Zionist Knesset and described it as being directly related to the latest talks he held with President Carter in Washington. This means that Israel, which refuses to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories and to recognize the Palestinian people's rights, wants through direct negotiations with the Egyptian regime to reach a stage which will enable it to achieve its expansionist ambitions and to obtain everything with the approval and public blessing of the United States. Thus, Begin explicitly stated that he had discussed in detail with the U.S. President the question of resuming direct negotiations between Israel and the Egyptian regime and that the two sides had agreed on all fundamental points under discussion. Even the so-called declaration of principles, which As-Sadat so frequently talks about, will consecrate in one way or another the occupation of Arab territories because the enemy leaders will never approve such a declaration unless it explicitly calls for the conclusion of a separate peace with the Egyptian regime in addition to the establishment of normal relations. Thus, the enemy leaders will ignore the crux of the Middle East crisis--the Palestinian issue.

It seems that As-Sadat has approved these Israeli conditions and intends to carry on with his capitulatory initiative until he reaches the objective he has set for himself, an objective which aims at liquidating the Arab cause and depriving the Palestinian people of their legitimate rights.

ALGERIA

BOUTEFLIKA VIEWS LEBANON, PLEDGES SUPPORT FOR PLO

LD3010377 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 22 Mar 78 p 5 LD

[APS report: "'The Israeli Aggression Stems From As-Sadat's Policy of Capitulation,' Mr A. Bouteflika Declares on His Return to Algiers"]

[Text] Algiers--Yesterday evening Mr Abdelaziz Bouteflika, member of the Council of the Revolution and foreign minister, returned to Algiers from Damascus where he participated in the extraordinary meeting of the foreign and defense ministers of the Arab resistance front countries.

Mr Bouteflika, who headed a large Algerian delegation at this meeting, including, among others, Col Abdelhamid Latreche, secretary general of the Defense Ministry, stressed in a statement to the press that the Israeli aggression against Lebanon is part of the series of aggressions to which the Arab Machrek has been accustomed for a generation since the creation of Israel at the Palestinian people's expense and the reduction of this people to a state of dispersion and to refugees living in neighboring countries, including Lebanon.

This aggression, Mr Bouteflika added, stems directly from the policy pursued since the appearance of the disengagement myth after the 1973 war and the policy of capitulation illustrated by As-Sadat's visit to Al-Quds [Jerusalem]. All these steps are aimed at inducing the Arab peoples to accept capitulation, Mr Bouteflika went on to stress.

After noting that Lebanon was entitled to ask the international organizations entrusted with safeguarding international peace and security to protect its people, its territorial integrity and the inviolability of its borders--hence the Security Council decision--Mr Bouteflika pointed out that everyone is now aware of As-Sadat's involvement with American imperialist circles and his alliance with the Zionist authorities.

The Palestinians are also entitled to defend their existence and to stand beside the Lebanese people, the minister continued. In fact the aggression is not aimed against Lebanon alone but constitutes a challenge to the entire Arab nation.

Recalling that the Arab masses, as 10 years ago during the battle of Al Karama [as published], always display solidarity with the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples but that today they are muzzled by certain leaders in both the Machrek and the Maghreb who are allied with As-Sadat, Mr Abdelaziz Bouteflika pointed out that the Arab resistance front continues to display effective solidarity with Syria and the Palestinian resistance via the PLO, the sole representative of the Palestinian people.

"As for Algeria, its solidarity stems from its history and national liberation war," Mr Bouteflika stressed. "We are perfectly well aware of the importance of international and Arab solidarity. Our solidarity, both at the people's level and at the level of the country's leadership, is spontaneous, particularly when our brothers are involved. We regard it as a simple duty but a sacred duty to the Palestinian people and the Lebanese people.

"The existence of the Arab resistance front and membership of this front signify commitment to a principle and a policy whereby each, according to his capabilities, brings political or material support."

EL MOUDJAHID: UN FORCE IN LEBANON BENEFITS ISRAEL

LD2011537 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 20 Mar 78 p 5 LD

[A. Zouied article: "A UN Force for Whose Benefit?"]

[Text] After long diplomatic negotiations conducted in a high-handed manner and accompanied by pressure exerted particularly on Lebanon, the United States finally laid its cards on the Security Council table on Saturday evening.

Thus it was that when the debates began we witnessed maneuvers aimed at making the United Nations play a "policing" role in the place of Israel's forces, whose military difficulties, in the face of repeated assults against their positions by Palestinian fighters, increasingly resemble a rout.

Although the prolonging of the fighting, which, on the fifth day, has enabled the Palestinian combatants to pit their strength against the Zionist force of aggression, supported by the air force, the artillery and the navy in close cooperation with the tanks and infantry, is causing the White House growing anxiety, all the signs clearly indicate that the American draft resolution, conditionally linking the Israelis' withdrawal to the dispatch of UN forces, is merely the diplomatic aspect of the military plan executed for Israel in the field.

It is appropriate to recall that, by the Israelis' own admission, Tel Aviv's military objective was to physically annihilate the Palestinian resistance as a fundamental element in the Near East conflict, to fix the Lebanese front, to gradually drive out the Arab deterrent force and to give Israel a major political trump card, enabling it to dictate the terms of a "settlement" to the conflict in the area to the detriment of the Arab nation's vital interests.

The truth is that, in their plans, the initiators of the attack were confident that they could complete their criminal work within 48 hours. Begin's victory communique, which declared on Wednesday that "the objectives of the Israeli operation in southern Lebanon were achieved at nightfall on Wednesday," has been more than contradicted by the harsh realities of the battlefield, which is once again dealing a serious blow to Tel Aviv's arrogance.

It was in this context that U.S.-Israeli skepticism deepened. The reinforcements dispatched by Begin's general staff yesterday and the laconic nature of his military communiques add a special dimension to this anxiety, which Washington is finding it difficult to conceal.

It is already being hinted that, by going ahead in spite of its military difficulties, Israel is sliding perceptibly toward an escalation which heralds a war of attrition.

In other words, in the field Israel's "safety zone" is becoming less secure.

In any event, the fact that the Security Council has adopted the draft resolution submitted by Washington--which denied, however, that it had been informed of the preparations for the Israeli attack--makes no difference to the Palestinian people's determination to liberate their usurped country, any more than it can ignore the Palestinian aspect of the Near East problem.

Although it is notable, moreover, that the Security Council did not accept Tel Aviv's request to make "Palestinian terrorism" the basis of the resolution, it nevertheless acted in a detrimental manner in not demanding the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the Israeli forces, since the very reason for summoning it was the Israeli aggression in violation of UN resolutions and the charter's fundamental principles.

By deciding to send the "blue berets" to the Israeli-Lebanese border as soon as possible, the Security Council, far from ending the Near East conflict, easing it or restricting it geographically, as the White House apparently hopes, is creating a situation in which the presence of UN forces is merely a pretext for Israel to continue its policy of establishing population and annexation colonies in the occupied territories and to take advantage of their continued presence to postpone the advent of a just and lasting peace in the area--which would be the outcome if all the relevant UN resolutions were implemented.

Thus, we can only deplore the ambiguity surrounding the implementation of the Security Council's resolution.

Clearly the Near East conflict is not on the verge of ending. This can only happen when the occupied Arab territories in Palestine are liberated.

BOUMEDIENE RECEIVES FORMER TUNISIAN MINISTER

LD300959Y Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 21 Mar 78 p 1 LD

[Unattributed report under general headline: "Audiences of the President of the Republic"]

[Text] At the president's offices yesterday morning President Houari Boumediene received Mr Badji Kaid Essebsi, former Tunisian minister who is currently on a private visit to Algeria.

LIBYA

JALLUD RECEIVES LJUBICIC; VIEWS EXCHANGED ON RELATIONS

LD302101Y Belgrade TANJUG in English 1921 GMT 30 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, March 30 (TANJUG)--Secretary of the Secretariat of the General People's Congress of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah 'Abd as-Salam Jallud this evening in Tripoli received Yugoslav Federal Secretary for National Defense, General of the Army Nikola Ljubicic. In a brief, friendly talk, views were exchanged on the current international situation and Yugoslav-Libyan relations. In the course of General Ljubicic's stay in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, successful and open talks were held on the further promotion of military cooperation between the two countries, it has been reported.

LIBYA, YUGOSLAVIA SIGN MILITARY COOPERATION PACT

LD310440Y Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland in Arabic 2315 GMT 30 Mar 78 LD

[Text] A military cooperation agreement was signed on 30 March by the Jamahiriyah and Yugoslavia. Brig Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, the commander in chief of the Libyan armed forces, on the evening of the same day attended a dinner given by the Yugoslav ambassador in honor of Nikola Ljubicic, the federal secretary for national defense of Yugoslavia, and his accompanying delegation now on a visit to the Jamahiriyah.

Later in the evening the Yugoslav guest visited the ancient town of Libdah and the agricultural project at Tajura'.

AL-QADHDHAFI RECEIVES CABLE FROM OAU CHAIRMAN

LD301920Y Tripoli JANA in English 1544 GMT 30 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, March 30 JANA--On the occasion of the reconciliation achieved between the Chad Government and FROLINAT, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi received the following cable from the president of Gabon, who is the current chairman of the OAU:

"I was very pleased to hear of the outcome of the agreement reached between the Chad Military Council and the United Chad Liberation Front in Benghazi." "I have no doubt that this agreement was reached thanks to your efforts and endeavors which you have always exerted in order to bring peace to Africa in general and to find a solution to the Chad problem, through negotiations, in particular, and today we can see that the reconciliation is possible, for which Africa will always be grateful to you. Please accept my best regards and respect."

Similarly, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi received another cable of congratulations from the president of the Front for the Liberation of Moro on the 8th anniversary of the evacuation of the British troops from the Jamahiriyah.

AT-TURAYKI RECEIVES MONGOLIAN, MOROCCAN OFFICIALS

LD301342Y Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 30 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Foreign Secretary Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki received at noon today the deputy foreign minister of People's Mongolia, who is now visiting the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. JANA has learned that the deputy foreign minister of Mongolia handed Dr at-Turayki a written message addressed to brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi from the president of the People's Republic of Mongolia.

Bilateral relations and the strengthening of cooperation between the Jamahiriyah and the People's Republic of Mongolia were discussed at this meeting, which was also attended by the acting under secretary of the Foreign Secretariat, by the assistant under secretary for technical affairs and by the director of the Asian Department at the Foreign Secretariat.

The foreign secretary also received at noon today Driss El Fallah, Moroccan ambassador to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. JANA has learned that the Moroccan ambassador handed At-Turayki a written message addressed to him from M'hamed Boucetta, Moroccan foreign minister.

ARAB LEAGUE MEETING DENOUNCED FOR INACTION

LD302256Y Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland in Arabic 1915 GMT 30 Mar 78 LD

[Unattributed commentary: "From Sinai to Southern Lebanon the Enemy Advances While the Rulers Sleep"]

[Excerpt] 'Abd an-Nasir and Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi taught us to be frank with the masses by presenting the facts to all and to avoid obscurity and interpretation. In accordance with this rule we say: Representatives of 17 Arab states met, members of the League of Arab [word indistinct] and tragedies, to discuss, study and analyze the problems of the Arab destiny, equipped only with files of sorrow, grief, anguish and sadness for what happened in southern Lebanon and what is happening in places other than southern Lebanon.

The intensity of their words was not matched by that of their thoughts. Their attention was attracted by television cameras but not by the cries of anguish of the orphans and the calls for help of the bereaved in the camps and villages of southern Lebanon. They examined the map of their [word indistinct] and their touristic plans and the map of the prisons they are building for their people, but they did not examine the map of the fighting and battle positions because they are not qualified in strategy, although they are qualified to kill any strategic plan for liberation.

After they had whispered and deliberated and each had taken his turn on the rostrum of the league of Arab anesthetization, they issued a lengthy statement lacking in thought, full of lines empty of any content, full of condemnation but including no threats to the enemy. God spared the participants in the session any effort of thought or investigation or any administrative competence because they belong to regimes in whose promises there is no truth and which are shameless and which are cowards, collectively and singly.

Instead of coming out with a statement calling for work, decision and struggle against the enemy, instead of drawing up a plan for fighting and surrounding the usurping enemy, we saw them and heard them release a statement sealed with psychological defeat, instigating action against the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement, but in fact calling for killing any Arab thought which rejects their decline.

In a spirit of openness, frankness and clarity we also say: The attendance of representatives of 17 Arab countries at the session of the council of the league of Arab tragedies is considered an expression of allegiance and blessing to the Egyptian president, who thinks in Hebrew, legislates according to the Talmud and rules in a Zionist manner. Their attendance is also a challenge to the feelings of a people whom the regimes expressing allegiance to As-Sadat are set against, since these regimes have become a bridge for As-Sadat's defeat to cross over to Arab [word indistinct]. The fog of solidarity called for by representatives of Arab negligence and representatives of the regimes of Arab defeat is the Arab political cover for As-Sadat to come out of his isolation and activate his political deviations.

Official solidarity with As-Sadat bypasses his intrigues, which enjoy the support of kings and presidents who are making all efforts to insure Arab unanimity in accepting As-Sadat's treason.

However, this kind of solidarity is rejected by the bearers of Arab rifles who are confronting the Zionist enemy and is condemned by the Arab masses who have placed their defeated regimes on the blacklist. Here we have the right to submit the following questions so that they may be answered by the authors of statements and repressive communiques: Is not solidarity with As-Sadat solidarity with the isolationists and the Zionists in Sinai, Palestine, the Golan and southern Lebanon? Is not solidarity with the Egyptian regime solidarity with the Iranians and the Americans in the Arab Gulf? Is not justification of As-Sadat's initiative a justification of the invasion of southern Lebanon by the Zionists? Is not sitting with As-Sadat and listening to him like sitting with the terrorist Begin, the butcher Dayan and the Nazi Weizman?

MAURITANIA

POLISARIO GUERRILLAS REPORTEDLY DERAIL ORE TRAIN

PA2716327 Paris AFP in English 1210 GMT 27 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Nouakchott, March 27 (AFP)--A fully laden (?4,800)-ton ore-carrying train on the Zouerate-Nouadhibou Railway was derailed by POLISARIO guerrillas Saturday about 100 km (62 miles) south-west of the iron-mining town, reliable sources said here today.

No one was hurt but "considerable" damage was reported. It was the fourth time the railway has been sabotaged this year by the Saharan guerrillas who are fighting the partitioning of Spanish Sahara by Mauritania and Morocco. The derailment occurred between Touajil and Choumlas. It was heading for Nouadhibou port. It crossed over an "explosives package placed, by all the evidence, by POLISARIO guerrillas," the sources said. Forty-eight wagons, each containing 100 tons of ore, piled into one another, and most were ripped open on impact. The four engines pulling the wagons were only slightly damaged. Sources here said it was a miracle no one was hurt.

A spokesman for the Zouerate mine owners said POLISARIO probably planned to derail the train overnight Friday and attack it. But the plan went astray because the train was delayed. By that time the guerrillas had withdrawn to their hideouts but left the explosives behind.

On February 25 six people died and 20 others were injured when POLISARIO derailed an iron-ore train. Saturday's derailment was the first guerrilla action inside Mauritanian territory for nearly a month, observers noted.

MOROCCO

LE MATIN CARRIES HASSAN PROTEST TO BEGIN

LD3009457 Casablanca LE MATIN in French 17 Mar 78 p 1 LD

[MAP report: "After the Israeli Attack on Southern Lebanon, Message to Mr Begin From His Majesty the King Conveyed via Mr Kurt Waldheim"]

[Text] Rabat, 16 March--In the wake of the Israeli attack unleashed against southern Lebanon Tuesday night, His Majesty Hassan II has sent the UN secretary general the following message for the Israeli prime minister:

"To His Excellency Kurt Waldheim, UN secretary general, New York:

"Please find herewith the text of a message; after acquainting yourself with it, we would be grateful if you conveyed it to Mr Menahem Begin, prime minister of the Israeli Government.

"Mr Prime Minister:

"We learn with anxiety of the attack perpetrated today by your army against southern Lebanon. Our anxiety is all the greater since this attack has caused the destruction of civilian property and the loss of hundreds of lives, while exacerbating the tension in the Near East and threatening to nullify the efforts made to establish a just and lasting peace in the region.

However profound the effects of the operation mounted in Tel Aviv may be, they could not justify the nature and the size of the operation which you are mounting against Lebanon today in causing your ground, naval and air forces to intervene massively. Your action clearly constitutes unmistakable aggression against an independent state which is a member of the United Nations and which, moreover, is not in a state of war with Israel.

"Morocco, which discharged its duty of Arab solidarity during the armed conflict in October 1973, continues to support with all its strength any initiative aimed at establishing peace in the region.

"However, it is to be feared that the armed attack mounted today by the Israeli forces will bring us to an impasse once again and will move us further away from the path of peace which is so sought after and desired.

"For our part we remain profoundly convinced that if President as-Sadat's initiative aimed at creating the objective conditions for a fruitful dialog between the Arab countries and Israel had been correctly appreciated by yourself and your government as it ought to have been and deserved to have been, many tragedies would have been avoided today and all the interested parties would perhaps have found reasons for rapprochement and for embarking at last on the path to real peace.

"In the conduct of its international relations, Morocco has always based itself on the sacred principles of the holy [revele] books which preach moderation and wisdom. In the verse which we are citing, the Koran instructs us: 'Follow the path of moderation and act in such a way that your bitter enemy becomes your close friend.' So we remain devoted to the principle of peace and we still advocate reconciliation in this region.

"However, if Israel persisted in disregarding our legitimate rights sanctioned unanimously at the Arab summit held in Rabat in 1974 and if it persisted in pursuing a policy of fait accompli, Morocco would be forced to revise its policy since wisdom would have proved ineffective and contrary to the objectives which we have assigned outselves.

"We ask you urgently to end the aggression and to order withdrawal of your armed forces in Lebanon, failing which any chance of peace would risk being dangerously doomed.

"[signed] Hassan II, king of Morocco" 17 Mar

SUDAN

NUMAYRI RECEIVES NEW UGANDAN AMBASSADOR

LD251826Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Mar 78 LD/EA

[Summary] This morning, President Numayri received the credentials of Umar Matar (Tajir) as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Uganda to Sudan. The ceremony was attended by Foreign Minister ar-Rashid at-Tahir Bakr and the minister for the presidency of the republic, Baha ad-Dinmuhammad Idris.

President Numayri praised the developing relations between Sudan and Uganda and referred to the similarities in the policies of the two countries in their upholding of the OAU Charter and support for the Palestinian people. In his speech the ambassador emphasized his intention to work for the further strengthening of relations between Uganda and Sudan.

TUNISIA

UK OFFICIAL FRANK JUDD ARRIVES FOR VISIT

Received by Bourguiba

LD3013534Y Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Mar 78 LD

[Text] At noon today President Habib Bourguiba received Frank Judd, British minister of state for foreign affairs, in the presence of Habib Bourguiba Jr, the president's personal adviser, and Brahim Turki, secretary of state at the Foreign Ministry, and the British ambassador in Tunis.

Received by Abdallah Farhat

LD301856Y Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 30 Mar 78 LD

[Text] This morning Abdallah Farhat, minister of national defense, had talks with Frank Judd in the presence of the British ambassador to Tunis. They discussed ways and means of strengthening bilateral cooperation between the two countries, especially in the exchange of specialists and experience. After the meeting the British minister of state stated that Abdallah Farhat had put forward a number of proposals which the British Government will carefully study in view of the good relations linking the two countries.

ARRIVAL OF U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION REPORTED

LD3017444Y Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 30 Mar 78 LD

[Text] A delegation of the U.S. House of Representatives International Relations Committee this afternoon arrived in Tunis to have talks with Sadok Mokaddem, speaker of the national assembly; Abdallah Farhat, minister of national defense; and Mohamed Fitouri, minister of foreign affairs.

FOREIGN MINISTER RETURNS FROM ARAB LEAGUE SESSION

LD3104344Y Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 30 Mar 78 LD

[Summary] The foreign minister returned tonight from Cairo, where he represented Tunisia at a session of the Arab League Council. On arrival he stated that the session was held in very difficult circumstances known to all. The dialog was about the consolidation of Arab solidarity. It was decided that President Numayri would contact all Arab countries to arrange an Arab summit. The minister said the session had been successful, and the spirit of Arab solidarity had been prominent. The session also agreed to extend the presence of Arab deterrent forces in Lebanon for another 6 months.

OFFICIAL CUBAN DELEGATION RECEIVED; TALKS HELD

FL302210Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1907 GMT 30 Mar 78 FL

[Text] Tunisian Secretary of State for Information Mustapha Masmoudi has received Fernandez Flores Ibarra, department chief in the Cuban Foreign Ministry, to study aspects of the upcoming sixth nonalined summit meeting. The Tunisian and Cuban officials also exchanged opinions on preparations for the second session of the nonalined intergovernmental coordinating countid on information.

UPCOMING VISIT BY CPSU'S DEMICHEV REPORTED

LD302156Y Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Petr Demichev, Soviet minister of culture and [candidate] member of the Politburo of the CPSU, will visit Tunis (?shortly) at the invitation of Tunisian Minister of Culture Chedli Klibi. Abd al-Hamid 'Ammar, Tunisian ambassador to Moscow, conveyed the invitation to the Soviet minister in Moscow when he met with him. Discussions during the meeting covered Tunisian-Soviet relations and bilateral cooperation in the cultural field.

WESTERN SAHARA

STATEMENT CLAIMS 39 MOROCCANS KILLED, 19-26 MARCH

LD302020Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 30 Mar 78 LD

[Summary] The Saharan Democratic Arab Republic Defense Ministry has issued a statement saying that Saharan strugglers waged four attacks during the period from 19 to 26 March in southern Moroccan territory. They attacked the garrison of the invading royalist forces at (Sij Rams), killing 20 members of the garrison and wounding over 20 others. On the eve of 24 March, the Saharan Popular Liberation Army carried out similar attacks against the royalist forces at (Ai Tarifi), directing heavy arms fire against the invaders, killing or wounding about 10 royalist soldiers.

The statement also says that between 19 and 25 March the Saharan fighters planted mines that went off under convoys of invading forces west of Asmara and north of 'Ayn Bin Tall. Two military vehicles and a vehicle carrying a machinegun passed over the mine. Their nine occupants were killed.

FRONT ISSUES COMMUNIQUE ON 20 MARCH BATTLE

LD281214Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 28 Mar 78 LD

[Excerpt] A Saharan Defense Ministry communique issued yesterday said that on 20 March POLISARIO revolutionaries attacked with heavy weapons all defense positions set up by the Moroccan Army round Asmara. The attack lasted two hours. A number of military installations and arsenals were destroyed, and 10 Moroccan soldiers were killed. The revolutionaries also attacked the occupation forces in Tuccarifu, killing eight soldiers and wounding several others.

WEIZMAN RETURNS FROM MEETINGS IN CAIRO

TA311105Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 31 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Defense Minister Weizman returned from Cairo a short while ago. He landed at Sde Dov airport in a Westwind aircraft of the Israeli air force. The defense minister left Tel Aviv for Jerusalem for a meeting with the prime minister.

YEDI'OT AHARONOT DISCUSSES RENEWED CONTACTS WITH EGYPT

Weizman Quoted

TA301423Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 30 Mar 78 pp 1, 6 TA

[By Mira Avrekh]

[Excerpt] Before his departure for Cairo, Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman sent a kind of personal message to Egypt's leader: "Tell President as-Sadat on my behalf, there are things to talk about."

The minister said this when he bade farewell to the members of the U.S. delegation of representatives of major companies who visited Israel as guests of TIME magazine. The members of the delegation left Israel for Egypt, where they are to meet with As-Sadat.

On taking leave of chairman of the TIME board, Andrew Heiskell, 'Ezer Weizman added to his message: "Tell him that I propose to reconvene the Military Committee. There are things to discuss. I believe that it is possible to reach a peace agreement, because both in Israel and in Egypt there is a deep desire for peace."

Later in his comments, which were frequently interrupted by loud applause from the members of the delegation, who at one stage rose to their feet, the defense minister said: "The State of Israel has committed several errors in the talks with As-Sadat. Egypt also made several mistakes, even though it must be admitted that its mistakes were smaller than Israel's, but the United States--it made grave mistakes...."

'Ezer Weizman explained his statement: "As-Sadat broke through a barrier and created a 180 degree turn in the Arab world. As for the members of the Likud, Begin's peace plan was also a 180 degree turn. The only ones who did not make any change at all were the Americans. In 1967, they demanded the return to the pre-6-day war borders, with minor changes, and today--they say the same thing. This is a serious mistake."

Elaborating on the future of the territories, the defense minister said that the West Bank does not actually belong to anyone, neither to Jordan nor to Israel. "If the Syrians damand a return to the 1967 borders, there would at least be some sense in their demand," he said, "but who has the right to demand the West Bank, that is, Judaea and Samaria? To whom should we transfer the Gaza Strip? Egypt never annexed it...."

The members of the delegation told 'Ezer Weizman: "Mr Minister, we have met with Prime Minister Menahem Begin and went away feeling disappointed. Would you want to be prime minister?"

'Ezer Weizman stared at them for a long time, smiled, and declared: "To be the defense minister of this country is a great honor. I do not need more than that."

Egyptians Said Pleased

TA301232Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 30 Mar 78 pp 1, 7 TA

[By Eytan Haber and London correspondent Ilan Kefir]

[Excerpt] YEDI'OT AHARONOT correspondent in London Ilan Kefir yesterday telephoned Cairo and talked with President as-Sadat's personal spokesman, Sa'ad (Zaglul) Nasir. The spokesman emphasized that he and the entire Egyptian nation feel that the peace momentum will be renewed in full swing.

The spokesman said: "Egypt is glad that the peace momentum which President as-Sadat started is being renewed. We shall do our utmost, and we expect Israel to show new initiatives which will contribute to peace."

The spokesman's aide, with whom our correspondent spoke later, said: "Despite all that has happened lately, President as-Sadat is steadfast in his determination to exhaust his peace initiative to its end." He added that the Egyptian Government will soon hold "a special debate on the peace policy, following the latest developments in the area."

POST INTERVIEWS GENERAL GUR ON LEBANON OPERATION

TA310658Y Jerusalem POST in English 31 Mar 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[By Hirsh Goodman]

[Text] Chief of Staff Mordekhay Gur said yesterday that one of the results of the Israel Defense Forces incursion into south Lebanon has been to make the PLO a de facto party to any agreement in that area.

"That is a fact," he said, adding that it was also a fact that the PLO has been a party to agreements in the past. "Anyone who claims that this is not so, is fooling himself," said Rav-Aluf [Lieutenant General] Gur, who is due to retire in 2 weeks time, in an exclusive interview with the Jerusalem POST.

Gur went on to talk about the Syrians as a factor in restraining the PLO terrorist activity. He intimated that Israel should agree to allow the Syrians to move "token" forces south of their present lines in Lebanon, if this meant that they would undertake to control the PLO.

In the course of the interview, Gur also said that an additional 100 Israeli soldiers would have been killed in action in south Lebanon had not the Israeli Defense Forces resorted to massive support from artillery, armor and air force. (Eighteen IDF soldiers died in the operation.)

Discussing the role of the PLO, Gur gave the example of the 1974 disengagement agreement with Syria which had as one of its conditions imposed by Israel that the PLO would be restrained by the Syrians. The Syrians agreed, but only after quietly consulting with the PLO, thus effectively making the terrorist organization a party to the agreement.

"From a practical point of view," he continued, "all past agreements have been linked to understanding with the PLO--something which we have preferred to ignore 'till this point."

An important force in the current constellation in south Lebanon is the Syrians. Until now, he said, Israel has not reached any modicum of understanding with them, neither has any effort been made to do so.

The chief of staff said that the Syrians today occupy the same positions in Lebanon they took up 2 years ago. He believed that they could, if they wanted, control terrorist activity in south Lebanon from the position they currently hold. Terrorist headquarters are situated mainly in Beirut, Sayda, Bak'a and Rashayyah el-Wadi--all centers under Syrian control. The Syrians also control all roads leading to south Lebanon.

"Thus," he said, "without moving a single soldier the Syrians could, if they wished, prevent all terrorism from south Lebanon."

The question now, he said, is whether the Syrians will agree to prevent terrorism, and if so, what price they will demand in return. He continued that the Syrians have been claiming for the past 2 years that unless they are allowed to move their forces south to Tyre, Hasbayya and An-Nabatiyah they cannot be expected to control the terrorists.

"Israel," he said, "will now have to decide whether to allow this to happen, and if so what size of Syrian forces should move closer to the Israeli border."

"We have not yet dealt with this issue here in Israel due to our current pre-occupation with deploying the UN forces," he said, "but we are going to have to discuss the question if we intend to seek a propitious political settlement to the campaign."

The Syrians, he felt, had good reason for agreeing to control the PLO. The Syrian Army, he noted, was split between Lebanon and Syria, and in Lebanon itself was spread very thin. This made the Syrians "hypersensitive" about the possibility of an attack against them. They would thus be very careful in allowing the PLO freedom of action against Israel--action which could possibly result in retaliation against a Syria not capable of defending itself.

"Against this background," he said, "it would seem that the Syrians should be interested in preventing terrorist action."

Another integral party to any agreement, the chief of staff concluded, would be the Christian forces under Major Haddad in the south. He said that ideally the men that Haddad has led in battle these past years should be integrated into the regular Lebanese army which is expected--with time--to take up position in the south.

He said that he expected Major Haddad to be able to recruit a total force of some 800 men under arms by the end of his current campaign--a force which would have a major role in keeping the terrorists out of the south.

The chief of staff countered a charge that the IDF might have been used indiscriminately in the Litani operation, saying that one of the guiding principles behind the army's strategies was to save as many Israeli lives as possible while securing the political goals which had been set.

He was aware of international criticism and the unfavorable effect on world opinion of the massive use of force on civilian targets, he said, but added that every precaution had been taken by the planners of the operation to ensure that there were as few civilian casualties as possible.

He revealed that to achieve this IDF artillery had fired a "light" barrage in the vicinity of key towns 2 hours before the operation to give villagers time to find shelter. He would not divulge any figures of civilian casualties in the area of operation--saying that not all the debris had been cleared away--but that the actual number of civilian casualties was lower, much lower, than had been published.

To underscore the sensitivity to loss of civilian Lebanese lives, he revealed for the first time that Israel had known beforehand about the terrorists who carried out the March 11 massacre on the Haifa-Tel Aviv highway, but had refrained from eliminating the group at their Damour base, because this would have meant high civilian casualties.

"...We know for example, that at Damour a gang of terrorists, who were preparing to come from the sea, was being trained. We did not attack the gang because they were situated among civilians. This was the same gang that perpetrated the massacre on the bus."

Rav-Aluf Gur said that contrary to reports published so far, the terrorists did not flee from their positions in southern Lebanon before the IDF attack, but dug in, laid ambushes and mined roads.

While the terrorists fully anticipated an Israeli attack, they had not expected it to be made on land (but exclusively from the air) and they had not expected it to come on Tuesday midnight, due to bad weather. These two factors gave the IDF a tactical advantage--despite the expectation of an attack--an advantage which added to the overall success of the operation, he said.

He claimed that the number of terrorists killed in the operation ranged between 250 to 400--a very high number and over 10 times as many terrorists killed as in any operation to date. He revealed that when the IDF generals planned the operation they had expected the terrorists to sustain no more than 50 dead.

The reason so many were killed was precisely because the terrorists remained behind to fight, and because Israel had gained a tactical advantage.

Indicative of the fact that they did not flee, he said, was that 47 terrorists were killed in hand-to-hand combat at Marun ar-Ra's, for example.

Gur also went on the offensive with regard to charges that the IDF power had been exercised thoughtlessly and without much finesse.

"The people of Israel," he said, "have paid heavily to equip this army with modern weapons and with safe means of transportation. To have the power and not to use it--to be a Goliath in terms of power and act only like a David--would be foolish in the extreme. We combined the best of both worlds, and even though we used our arsenal to the fullest, each attack was bolstered by careful planning and tactical ingenuity." He gave the examples of Al-Ghanduriyah, Bint Jubayl and Al-Khiyam, all of which were attacked from the rear.

Gur said that the problem which was posed to the planners of the operation was how to spread the attack effectively along the entire 100 km front and sustain as few casualties as possible. The tactics used had proven successful, he stated.

Turning to the political aspects of the operation, Gur said that Israel had been prompted to move from the original line, 10 kilometers deep in Lebanon, to the banks of the Litani because of America's premature and hasty action in the UN demanding a Security Council resolution and the deployment of a UN force in the area. Israel had hoped that by taking a 10-kilometer strip, negotiations for a solution could have been handled directly with the Arab governments--Syria and Lebanon--involved.

Because the U.S. had acted before this process had started, he said, the Government of Israel and the IDF formulated a second stage, which took the army to the banks of the Litani--a move which ensured that any UN forces entering the region would be deployed at positions most advantageous to Israel.

Purely coincidentally, he said, the decision to press on to the Litani (a move which was abetted by the total lack of Syrian intervention at that point) was taken at the same time that the mukhtar of Tibnin and several other villages in the area raised white flags and asked for the army's protection. This, he said, allowed the IDF to penetrate deeper in Lebanon without fighting and without loss of life.

The decision to press on to the Litani, however, was a result of developments at the UN and not a case of the mukhtar of Tibnin dictating policy to Israel, as has been suggested in certain quarters, he said.

The challenge was now, he said, for the government to be able to translate the military achievements into political ones. He said that boldness of action was needed.

"Obviously," he said, "any military action must be completed by a political understanding. If these are attained I believe that we will be able to achieve quiet along the northern frontier."

He warned, however, that nobody should delude himself that this would mean the end of terror. To think so would be folly, he said. No single action can preclude or neutralize terror. Only a continuum of actions. There are over 20,000 terrorists in Lebanon and nobody had considered--or even dreamt of--killing them all.

The goal of the operation, he said, was to create a situation in south Lebanon which would force an agreement with the parties involved whereby the PLO would be controlled in all of Lebanon.

"And I believe," he said, "that the latest action--the force and size of it--has laid a foundation upon which agreement can be reached."

GOVERNMENT REPORTEDLY VETOED IDF PREEMPTIVE STRIKE

TA311121Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 31 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Our correspondent has learned that a few weeks before the terrorist struck along the coastal road the government had received information that terrorists were planning a seaborne action against targets in the center of the country. It has now been learned that the IDF planned a preemptive strike against the departure base of the terrorists. The political level did not approve the action, apparently because of the planned trip of the prime minister to the United States.

Begin's Office Denies Report

TA311226Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 31 Mar 78 TA

[Text] The prime minister's office totally denied the report that the political level did not approve of a preemptive action, recommended by the IDF, against the departure base of the terrorists who struck along the coastal road. It was stated by the prime minister's office that this report is unfounded and that the IDF proposed two operations: a small-scale and a large-scale operation against that base, but recommended that only the small-scale operation be carried out. The political level accepted the recommendation and the action was indeed carried out 2 weeks before the terrorist act along the coastal road.

SITUATION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON REPORTED

TA301440Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 30 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Several dozen new soldiers enlisted in the southern Lebanese army today. The commander of the Christians in southern Lebanon, Maj Sa'id Haddad, set out on a recruiting campaign in the village of 'Aytarun in the southern region. Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen reports that in the Phalangist command in (Tall an-Nahas) six terrorists were captured during the fighting last week. The Christians say that they will release them only if the terrorists release two Phalangist combatants they hold.

The flow of residents returning to southern Lebanon continues and hundreds of cars pass through the checkpoint at Tall 'Abbasiyah.

'HOSTILE ELEMENTS' INFILTRATE SOUTHERN LEBANON

TA301813Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 30 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Hostile elements have recently infiltrated into the territory held by the IDF in southern Lebanon, after the terrorists took advantage of the free passage over the Litani. This was stated by the commander of the unit of aid to civilians in southern Lebanon to our correspondent Yehezqel Ham'iri. He told how, following the infiltration of the hostile elements into the region, it had been decided to temporarily forbid the inhabitants of southern Lebanon to travel north. Because of this, IDF authorities today prevented hundreds of Lebanese refugees, who had arrived at the villages in the security strip, from returning to Beirut in order to bring back their families.

RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS MINISTRY TO REPAIR DAMAGED CHURCHES

TA301425Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 30 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Israel's Ministry for Religious Affairs has agreed to repair the churches in the southern Lebanese Christian villages of Al-Qulay'ah and Marj 'Uyun. The churches were damaged by shells fired by the PLO.

SETTLEMENT DEVELOPMENT FROZEN FOR ANOTHER SEVERAL MONTHS

TA301144Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 30 Mar 78 p 8 TA

[By Yehuda Litani]

[Text] A reliable source reported yesterday that the halt in settlements in Judaea, Samaria and the Rafah approaches will continue for several more months so as not to disrupt government moves toward political negotiations. It was also reported that the ministers who have until now favored the continuation of the settlement momentum in the West Bank have agreed to a temporary halt in establishing settlements for the next few months in view of the political negotiations. They still think, however, that there is a need to deepen and widen existing settlements and especially to improve the conditions of the Gush Emunim settlers in the IDF camps.

Gush Emunim members, even though they object to the freeze that exists on settlements in the West Bank, have decided to maintain a low profile in order to back the prime minister in the recent disagreement with the United States.

'AL HAMISHMAR: U.S. ATTITUDE TOWARD ISRAEL WORSENS

TA310952Y Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 31 Mar 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[By Dalya Shehori]

[Text] There has been a negative turn in the U.S. attitude toward Israel, which found its most prominent expression over the six points in dispute between the United States and Israel listed last week by President Carter (that is, "Begin's six no's"), a senior Foreign Ministry source in Jerusalem said.

The source said that it was unusual, from the aspect of U.S. thinking, to assemble points--and negative ones, at that--all the more so as there are also points of agreement between the United States and Israel. Against this background, the accumulation and presentation of the points under dispute--by the U.S. President himself--bears a particularly meaningful character.

In the view of the source, the turn in U.S. policy springs especially from the increasing influence Saudi Arabia now has over U.S. policy in the Middle East. To date Saudi Arabia--in spite of U.S. desires--has avoided openly supporting President as-Sadat's peace initiative, fearing that he was likely to reach a settlement with Israel while abandoning the Palestinians. Saudi Arabia and Egypt have also shown interest in incorporating Jordan in the negotiations, to help in the creation of a moderate Arab bloc and remove the isolation surrounding As-Sadat in the Arab world.

In an effort to respond to these interests, the United States, during Prime Minister Menahem Begin's visit to Washington, presented Israel with hard demands without at all trying to compromise between the positions of the sides. The United States even retreated from the agreements achieved with Israel when it was made clear that Egypt did not accept them. The hardening of the U.S. argument with Israel also found expression, among other things, in the demand that Israel agree to a withdrawal in principle from the West Bank in accordance with Resolution 242.

The source pointed out that there was no justification whatsoever for demanding from Israel at this stage, when the dialog was with Egypt, that Israel agree to an addition to Resolution 242, which touches on concessions on another front. Israel's refusal, the source said, was nothing less than a refusal to bow to Egyptian demands concerning a sector which was not Egyptian and regarding which Egypt can demand, but cannot give.

The source added that if Jordan were to enter the circle of discussion Israel would even be prepared to discuss a withdrawal from the West Bank with it because it was Jordan's right to raise such a demand--as a party on the eastern front.

The remarks by the source gave the impression that the United States was now working to reinforce the differences of opinion on all levels--between Israel and the United States and between Israel and the Jews of the United States--in an effort to create public opinion which would be unsympathetic toward Israel--by showing it to be taking an intransigent and unreasonable position. It is not inconceivable that this is the tactic being taken by the Carter administration in order to "persuade" Israel to make its positions more flexible, instead of the pressure tactics taken by the previous administration which involved a halt to sending equipment and economic aid.

The feeling prevails in Jerusalem that Israel must display an aggressive position toward the new U.S. tactics in order to prevent an erosion in Jerusalem's positions even before the real start of the negotiations.

TEHERAN REPORTS ON UNREST THROUGHOUT COUNTRY

Attacks in Isfahan

LD291120Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 0900 GMT 29 Mar 78 LD

[Excerpt] According to a PARS News Agency report from Isfahan, a handful of subversive elements attacked the municipal buildings of Isfahan precincts Nos 3 and 4 at 1400 yesterday, smashed windows with stones and set fire to public buildings with molotov cocktails. The small fires caused were soon extinguished. No deaths resulted, but some minor damage to property was caused.

In light of attacks carried out during the past few months on institutes of higher education and on educational and public welfare organizations, and bearing in mind the character of the incidents and the identity of their instigators and of those involved, it has been said in Teheran circles following the PARS News Agency reports that once again, in our era, leftwing elements associated with black reaction have launched yet another onslaught against Iranian national interests.

It is also said that the [words indistinct] onslaught by the agents of black reaction will not be able to undermine the atmosphere of national understanding in our country; on the contrary, it will unite and consolidate the ranks of the Iranian people for confrontation with polluted thoughts and actions.

While publishing reports on the attacks by a handful of subversives on banks and public organizations, Teheran's morning and evening papers today strongly denounce these incidents. RASTAKHIZ and AYANDEGAN, two Teheran newspapers, publish reports on the attacks carried out by rioters in Teheran and several provincial towns, and carry commentaries analyzing the motives of the masked attackers. RASTAKHIZ, in an article entitled "Leftwing Associated With Black Reaction," refers to the fact that a group of people have caused damage and losses to organizations which serve them and their welfare, and says: The first thing that comes to the mind of any patriotic Iranian and any impartial observer is, whose policies are they trying to implement? Which party are they serving? What ideology or group are they following? Who are these people? What is their character?

RASTAKHIZ says: We know that the Iranian revolution, which transformed Iranian society in the direction of public welfare and prosperity, was opposed only by red and black reaction. In the past, these two forces have done everything they could to oppose our people and our revolution. Nevertheless, the Iranian people's solidarity, unity and cohesion nipped in the bud the last ditch opposition of these two allied forces. This opposition did not end, however, although it has changed its color every now and then. We can once again observe, with great surprise, that a voice ostensibly emanating from the vocal chords of black reaction is none other than the voice often heard from the leftist quarters--a voice that has failed to get anywhere, needless to say.

Riots, Demonstrations Continue

LD301044Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 0900 GMT 30 Mar 78 LD

[Text] PARS News Agency correspondents have reported that following the incidents caused by a group of antinational rioters on 27 and 28 March, antinational elements incited by foreigners have resorted to causing disturbances and insecurity in a number of provinces, damaging public enterprises and property, as well as economic, educational, and welfare organizations.

In Zahedan, saboteurs set fire to the city's college of art. Economic and public enterprises were also attacked in Teheran and other cities. According to a PARS News Agency correspondent from Zahedan, a section of the college of art was set on fire last night, but the fire was extinguished by the city and college officials before it could cause any damage.

At 2215 yesterday a group of saboteurs in Yazd staged street demonstrations and smashed the windows of the Iran Insurance Company building along their route and injured a number of people and passers-by. The saboteurs also damaged five Saderat Bank branches, one Workers Welfare Bank branch, three Bank Melli Iran branches, one branch of the Cooperative and Distribution Bank, one branch of Bank Pars, the central office of the Sepah Bank, one branch of the Industrial Bank, three supermarkets, four shops, one movie theater and the signboard of the RASTAKHIZ newspaper by throwing stones and bricks.

A number of people were injured by the stones and bricks thrown by the saboteurs. The saboteurs were dispersed after the police arrived.

Yesterday, a number of subversive students of the high school teacher training college of Ahvaz City went to Dezful Town and set fire to branches of the Melli, Bazargani, Iran and Holland and Saderat banks with gasoline. After the police arrived, work started on extinguishing the fire. Five saboteurs were arrested.

At 0700 yesterday in Isfahan, a number of saboteurs attacked police cars and smashed the windows of a number of bank branches in Chaharbagh Avenue, as well as those of the Darius Hotel. Following the arrival of the police the saboteurs dispersed.

On Tuesday afternoon passengers of a private car smashed the windows of the Saderat Bank branch on Bagheshah Avenue in Isfahan and left some antipatriotic and provocative pamphlets.

A group of saboteurs marched along the streets in Mashhad at noon yesterday and attacked a housing saving company branch along their route, causing some damage to the building. The saboteurs also smashed the windows of the branches of the Sepah, Melli and Saderat banks.

Between 0400 and 0600 today a number of motorcyclists smashed the windows of the Saderat Bank branch in Mashhad and escaped as the police arrived before being able to set fire to the building. Again this morning, a group of subversive elements and troublemakers smashed the windows of bank branches and shops in Mashhad and started to set fire to the Saderat Bank branch on Shahreza Avenue, but the fire was extinguished in time by fire-fighting officers.

Two nights ago in Aligudars, unknown saboteurs attacked the hall of the local health center and smashed its windows. The saboteurs did not even spare the public library and the center for statistics and documents, and, in the course of their attack on these educational and instructive centers, they smashed the windows and escaped.

An armed terrorist was killed in a shootout with the police in Qazvin at 0200 today and another terrorist escaped after wounding a policeman. A PARS News Agency report from Qazvin says a few minutes after 0200 today two armed men, who were distributing subversive and antipatriotic pamphlets in the streets from their Peykan car, opened fire when they saw the police patrol. The police were forced to return fire.

In the shootout one of the terrorists, using the cover of darkness, managed to escape after wounding a policeman. The other terrorist, who was wounded in the exchange, died on his way to the hospital. According to the PARS News Agency report, a Peykan car, a 32-caliber pistol, two combat handgrenades, a considerable quantity of explosives and many antipatriotic pamphlets were left behind by these terrorists. The pamphlets recovered from the terrorists indicate their association with a communist terrorist group. The pamphlets contain material on terrorism, encouraging and inciting people to rioting and causing disturbances. Two identity cards were left behind by the terrorists, but the particulars contained are a forgery and the police are now investigating the actual identity of the dead terrorist.

Further Incidents Reported

LD301642Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1500 GMT 30 Mar 78 LD

[Excerpt] According to reports received from Yazd, the disturbances in this town unfortunately left two people dead. Our correspondent reports from Yazd that around noon today a number of people started street demonstrations, which turned into an antinational demonstration. In the midst of the demonstration, a number of saboteurs and hooligans attacked the security officers with stones, bricks, brass knuckles and knives. To defend themselves, the officers first used fire-extinguishing equipment and teargas and then by firing over their heads tried to disperse the attackers. The saboteurs did not disperse and continued to attack banks and shops and to set fire to various places. They also intensified their attacks against the officers, which resulted in the deaths of two saboteurs and injuries to seven others.

Our correspondent reports from Behbahan that at 1150 today a group of saboteurs staged a demonstration in the streets and smashed the windows of some bank branches as well as those of the womens' organization. The attackers did not even refrain from attacking the town's clinic, and during their savage attack smashed the clinic's windows and injured one of the nurses, who is now confined to bed in a hospital.

In Qazvin, around 1300, a number of saboteurs smashed the windows of some bank branches, but fled after the security forces arrived.

PARS News Agency reports from Khorramabad that at 1100 today a number of people staged antinational demonstrations. Four of them were arrested after officers arrived on the scene. Investigation of the accused continues.

In Mashhad, from 1300 to 1500 a number of saboteurs began disturbances by smashing the windows of some banks and hotels, but were dispersed by officers. The saboteurs, in the course of their demonstrations, attacked a nursing school and smashed its windows. In Teheran, at around 1400, two motorcyclists threw two incendiary bombs at two food shops, setting them on fire. Firemen arrived on the scene immediately and prevented the fire from spreading. Fortunately, the fire was brought under control immediately and little damage was caused.

Foreign Agents Blamed

LD311110Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 0900 GMT 31 Mar 78 LD

[Excerpts] According to PARS correspondents a group of subversive people yesterday attacked and damaged public and welfare organizations in certain towns.

The provocations and subversive activities of foreign agents which have been taking place in certain parts of the country recntly have caused a few subversives to resort to rioting and attacking economic, cultural and educational establishments and banks. As a result of a riot by a few subversives one person was killed in Jahrom.

A report by PARS correspondents says that the colonialist-instigated subversives and rioters and the enemies of Iran this time attempted to further their barbarous and antipatriotic aims in the middle of the night and in the early hours of the morning, when the cities were quiet and the people were resting.

According to these reports, at 2000 in Jahrom a group of subversives, chanting antinational slogans, embarked on antipatriotic demonstrations, in the course of which they attacked banks, shops and police cars. Officials warned them to disperse, but the subversives, ignoring the officials' warning, continued their subversive activities and the officials, in order to disperse the subversives, used water cannon and tear gas. However, they met with a counterattack by the subversive elements, and the officials were forced to fire over their heads. The subversives then attacked the officials in an attempt to get arms. As a result the officials had to defend themselves and one person was shot and killed.

According to a PARS report from Teheran, the agents of red and black colonialism at midnight and this morning, when the city was slumbering, looted public establishments and rioted. At 0100 on southern Shahbaz Avenue subversives smashed the windows of the Saderat Bank branches, lobbed incendiary materials and bombs and set fire to public places and establishments. These fires were extinguished by fire-fighting officials. Half an hour prior to this incident a number of subversives attacked the Saderat Bank branches in the air force's 7th and 8th avenues and damaged and set fire to them. A few minutes later, another two branches of the same bank were set on fire by subversives on Teheran's Vusuq Avenue.

A PARS correspondent from Qom says that at 2030 yesterday a small group of rioters staged street demonstrations and broke the windows of a number of public and private banks. From Kashan PARS reports that at 2100 yesterday some 50 rioters and saboteurs of order and tranquillity attacked the police, wielding knives and stones, in Kashan's Panakhl District. Officials dispersed them.

The subversives attacking public, welfare, economic and educational establishments have sought to damage people's property and establishments set up to promote public welfare. This small group of subversives are embarking on such traitorous measures at the instigation of foreign agents and with antinational plots and machinations. What aim do they pursue?

It is not surprising that a few subversives are attacking public, economic, welfare and educational establishments, because the foreign agents and those of red and black reaction could never bear to witness our social, economic, and industrial changes. The reactionary foreigner is deeply disturbed by the fact that Iran's progress is rapidly forging ahead and that this realm is turning into a big economic and industrial power. Our nation is alert to these plots and machinations, is advancing without losing the smallest opportunity and will not permit foreign agents and subversives to halt the wheel of our economic, social and industrial progress by instigating a handful of traitors.

AFGHANISTAN

CABINET APPROVES BUDGET FOR CURRENT YEAR

LD3015l0Y Kabul in Dari to Europe 1730 GMT 30 Mar 78 LD

[Text] The state's ordinary and development budget for the year beginning 21 March 1978, amounting to 33,889,818,000 afghanis, was approved at yesterday's session of the cabinet and communicated to His Excellency Mohammad Daud, the president of the republic. The cabinet comprehensively studied and discussed the ordinary and development budget of the state, after hearing the details of the financial and budgetary aspects of the year ending 20 March 1978 and also the provisions of the ordinary and development budget for the current year, and approved it.

Mr Fazlolhaq Khalesyar, deputy finance minister, in stating this to a BAKHTAR news agency correspondent, said: The new budget is a balanced budget and represents an increase of about 1 billion afghanis over that of the previous year. He explained that the ordinary budget for the year beginning 21 March 1978 amounts to 13,379,647,000 afghanis and is in two sections. It represents an increase of 6.23 percent over the previous year's ordinary budget, which amounted to 12.5 billion afghanis.

The first section concerns the ordinary expenditures of government agencies and amounts to 8,131,011,000 afghanis, an increase of 16.42 percent compared with the previous year. [passage indistinct] The second section of the ordinary budget concerns assistance to civil servants and government agencies and (?subsidy) for oil product prices. This amounts to 5,149,329,000 afghanis. [passage indistinct]

The development budget allocated for the second year of the country's 7-year economic and social development plan amounts to 20,400,478,000 afghanis, which will be secured from two sources of income. Some 7.75 billion afghanis will be secured from domestic sources of revenue, an increase of 1.1 billion afghanis, or 16.54 percent, compared with the previous year. Some 12,365,478,000 afghanis will be secured through loans from friendly countries and international organizations. In the new budget more reliance has been placed on domestic sources of income.

The deputy minister of finance said that 27.9 percent of the development budget will be allocated to the agricultural and irrigation sector, 42.8 percent to the industrial, mining and engineering sector, 15.5 percent to social services, and 12.3 percent to the transport and communications sector. [passage indistinct]

INDIA

VAJPAYEE: INDIA NOT SURRENDERING TO BIG POWERS

BK3109022 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 31 Mar 78 BK

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee, has said that there is no question of India leaning on a big power.

Addressing a public meeting in Karnal today, Mr Vajpayee said that the Soviet Union is our friend. The United States has tried recently to come nearer to us and we have responded to the desire. But it will be wrong to describe such a response as surrendering to them.

VAJPAYEE HOLDS TALKS WITH MALAYSIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

BK3016l9Y Delhi ISI in English 0849 GMT 30 Mar 78 BK

[Text] The foreign ministers of India and Malaysia expressed their satisfaction on the progress of bilateral relations between the two countries which have much in common, reports SAMACHAR.

Atal Bihari Vajpayee, minister for external affairs, and Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen bin Ismail, foreign minister of Malaysia, had a cordial general exchange of views for over an hour at formal talks on the evening of 29 March. Earlier Tengku Rithauddeen called on Vajpayee and was with him for about half an hour. There are about 26 joint ventures in Malaysia, the largest number India has with any country.

The two foreign ministers projected their perspectives of their respective governments' foreign policy. Vajpayee explained the efforts made by India to improve relations with its neighbours during the past year, with particular reference to (?the nations of) South Asia as well as the big powers.

The foreign ministers referred to the forthcoming meeing of the nonaligned coordinating bureau in Kabul and also agreed on the importance of the special United Nations session on disarmament to be held this year in May.

Conclude Talks 30 March

BK3016l9Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1436 GMT 30 Mar 78 BK

[Text] New Delhi, March 30 (AFP)--The Malayisan and Indian foreign ministers concluded their official talks here today with both sides agreeing to increase cooperation in agricultural research and in science and technology.

Officials of the two countries would make drafts on the proposed agreement for consideration by the two governments, an official spokesman said.

During today's talks, lasting nearly 2 hours, Malaysian Foreign Minister Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen invited his Indian counterpart, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, to visit Malaysia, and Mr Vaypayee accepted the invitation in principle, the spokesman added.

While the first round of talks yesterday also touched on international and regional issues, today's discussions were exclusively on bilateral matters like joint ventures and training facilities for Malaysian scholars in India. They also discussed Indian participation in international tenders floated by Malaysia for development projects.

Tengku Rithauddeen will address a press conference tomorrow before leaving for Bombay.

The Tengku also called on Prime Minister Morarji Desai. Officials said it was purely a courtesy call.

Later, he signed a cultural agreement with India, the first of its kind between the two countries. It envisaged cooperation in culture, music and literature, education and research, science and technology, mass media and sports and youth activities. It also envisaged exchange of visits by cultural, sport and youth groups.

Both sides agreed that a joint committee be set up for reviewing the working of the agreement periodically.

Education minister Pratap Chandra Chunder signed the agreement on behalf of India.

Mr Rithaudden's other engagements for the day included visits to the Moghul-built Qutub Minar and the Indian Institute of Islamic Studies, both in Delhi.

AFP: 13 PEOPLE KILLED IN UTTAR PRADESH

OW302032Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1850 GMT 30 Mar 78 OW

[Text] New Delhi, Mar 30 (AFP)--Thirteen people were killed in serious communal clashes on Wednesday at Sambhal in Uttar Pradesh state, northern India, it was officially disclosed today.

State Chief Minister Ram Naresh Yadav said that police had to open fire at three places to quell the rioting in which another 23 were wounded, some seriously. The reports reaching here did not identify the rival groups involved but sources believed them to be Hindus and Moslems.

In the legislature at Lucknow, state capital, Mr Yadav described the situation as "very grave" but under control. He appealed to the people of the state to remain calm.

Mr Yadav said all those killed were victims of the rioting, and there was no loss of life in the police firings. He said among these, nine were killed and their bodies burnt by a mob. Also a factory was raided and 50 shops looted and burnt. The township was placed under indefinite curfew soon after the violence broke out. Eighty-four arrests had been made so far, the chief minister said.

PAKISTAN

HAQ SAYS BHUTTO NOT TO BE SUMMARILY EXECUTED

BK301425Y Dacca Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 30 Mar 78 BK

[Text] Pakistan has assured the UN secretary general, Dr Waldheim, that former Premier Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, under sentence for death, will not be summarily executed. According to AFP, the Pakistan assurance follows the (?mercy) appeal by Dr Waldheim to Pakistan Chief Martial Law Administrator Gen Ziaul Haq last week.

SRI LANKA

COMMISSION TO PROBE ABUSES IN BANDARANAIKE REGIME

BK311125Y Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 31 Mar 78 BK

[Text] The president, Mr J.R. Jayewardene, yesterday appointed a three-member special presidential commission of inquiry to inquire and obtain information in regard to misuse and abuse of power during the period May 1970 to July 1977.

The commission is headed by Mr Justice Weeraratne, and the other two members are Mr Justice Sharvananda and Mr De Alwis, district judge of Colombo.

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